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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-198
Monday
16 October 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-198 16 October 1989

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Lebanese Deputies Meeting in Al-Ta'if

Sa'adah Comments on Negotiations

NC1410153489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah declared today that the clauses of the Arab document are an integrated whole and cannot be taken in isolation. We are studying the clauses individually and whenever we agree on one of the four clauses, we set it aside. We will make no announcement until we reach a comprehensive agreement on the four clauses. Should we differ over one of the four clauses, the entire document will be rendered invalid, he stressed.

In a statement to the Voice of Lebanon, Dr Sa'adah pointed out that the discussions have reached the issue of sovereignty, which he described as a delicate and sensitive one, and are being conducted in total secrecy and through intensive contacts. He said: If we lose our sovereignty, reforms would be absolutely meaningless. He added: We must discuss the issues here and differ here, withdraw from the meetings, and then return to them, so we can make sure that we can implement any agreement we reach. He said: We are not discussing the introduction of constitutional amendments to the final formula. Everyone knows that there are rules that must be followed in amending the Constitution before anything can be endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies. He added: We should not be judged by every word we say but by the general principles and major guidelines that must be examined and improved to be incorporated into the final formula. Finally, he said that the al-Ta'if meetings are intended to reach a settlement and to draw up the major guidelines for reforms.

KUNA Updates Situation 15 Oct

LD1510134189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1228 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Al-Ta'if, Oct 15 (KUNA)—Side meetings among Lebanese MPs are still under way Sunday and there is no set date until now of the meeting of the drafting committee, formed by the deputies earlier, nor of plenary session of the Lebanese parliamentarians.

Lebanese parliamentary and Arab sources speculated that these intensive meetings are likely to continue until after next Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Lebanese deputies started yesterday their first discussions over the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon and moderate deputies in the christian team started to discuss within groups the Syrian military presence in Lebanon with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Radio Voice of Lebanon, mouthpiece of the Phalangist party, said that the extremist wing of the Christian deputies insisted on amending the article in an Arab Charter that calls for the re-deployment of the Syrian Army after two years of enacting political reforms in Lebanon.

The radio noted that a plan presented by a four-man committee, formed by the Christian deputies, demanded a Syrian withdrawal from western Beirut directly after the formation of a national union government, and called for a full Syrian pullout from Lebanon within a period not exceeding three years.

The Christian deputies, meeting in al-Ta'if, have formed the four-man committee to deal with two issues of differences, the Lebanese sovereignty and the Lebanese-Syrian relations.

Meanwhile, Kuwait daily AL-QABAS quoted today a prominent figure participating in the Lebanese deputies meeting as saying that most of the first article in the Arab Charter that tackles reforms has been agreed on.

He said that the Lebanese 17-man drafting committee has not yet discussed Lebanese sovereignty which includes the Syrian withdrawal, noting that the topic was discussed at side meetings.

In a related development, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali left al-Ta'if today heading for New York carrying a message to United Nations's Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He will also discuss with American officials the situation in Lebanon and then he is expected to return to al-Ta'if within the next 48 hours to take part in the Lebanese parliamentary meetings.

Filali, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali are members in the three-man Arab committee assigned to solve the Lebanese crisis.

On the other hand, the Algerian foreign minister left al-Ta'if this morning after taking part in the efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Central Council Meets in Baghdad 15 Oct

Council Session Opens

JN1510122889 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 15, INA—A two-day meeting of the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) started in Baghdad today.

The meetings attended by President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO are chaired by Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Palestinian National Council (PNC).

The INA learnt that the Council meetings would tackle developments of conditions inside the occupied Arab

territories in the shade of the popular Palestinian uprising for confronting Zionist occupation and campaigns of brutal terrorism and intimidation exercised against the Palestinian people.

The meetings will also discuss means of escalating the uprising for ensuring an effective confrontation to the Zionist brutal policy and for realizing the uprising's just objectives in defeating occupation troops and wresting freedom and independence in addition to discussing political developments of the Palestine issue.

To Discuss Relations With Syria

NC1510131089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—The PLO Central Council meeting opened here today under the chairmanship of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine Council, and in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman.

A high-ranking Palestinian source told the MENA correspondent in Baghdad that in its meeting the Council reviewed current issues related to solving the Palestinian problem. The source added that the Council members listened to a thorough report from Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, on the recent political moves undertaken by the PLO. The report also reviewed the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and the Syrian-Palestinian exchanges that have taken place recently.

The source went on to say that during its 2-day meetings, the Council is expected to discuss the situation in the occupied territories in light of the Israeli occupation's escalation of the campaigns of oppression and terrorism against the Palestinians. The council is also expected to discuss ways to consolidate the intifadah.

Official on Proceedings

JN1510183089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee and secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front, by Hasan al-Kashif in Baghdad on 15 October—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Kashif] Mr 'Abd-al-Rahim, could you brief us and our listeners on what is taking place during this morning's session?

[Ahmad] This session's discussions will concentrate on the political contacts, the U.S. Administration's pressures and maneuvering, and the Israeli intransigence, which are aimed at using political pressure and economic blockade to gain time and strike at the intifadah in a bid to obtain more gratuitous concessions in favor of the Zionist enemy and the ruling coalition in Israel. The Central Council will discuss this situation in detail. The general trends within the Central Council view this U.S. situation and this Israeli intransigence as a real obstacle to the peace process; it prevents the attainment of a just and comprehensive settlement conducive to the realization of the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights.

Working Paper Rejects Baker Plan

JN1510205989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2014 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Report by Hasan al-Kashif in Baghdad; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The PLO rejects James Baker's plan and sees it as the embodiment of the U.S. insistence on rejecting the right to self- determination and on imposing trusteeship on Palestinian representation, as well as on adopting Shamir's plan as a basis for any solution to the Palestine question. This Palestinian rejection came in a working paper presented to the PLO Central Council tonight. The strength of the paper stems from the fact that it is presented by the PLO Executive Comittee and is backed by national Palestinian unanimity because it is the outcome of expanded discussions by the factions' leaders. All took part in formulating the paper before it was adopted by the Executive Committee last night.

The paper also stressed that the Palestinian-American dialogue revealed the U.S. Administration's support for Israel. It also stressed adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative and categorical rejection of any alternative plans.

In its treatment of the proposal to hold a Palestinian-Israeli meeting, the paper stressed that the PLO alone is entitled to form the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel and to announce the names of this delegation's members. It added that the agenda of such a meeting should be open and without preconditions, and that this meeting should be considered preliminary talks between the two sides and a step toward holding an effective international conference provided that this conference is attended by delegations from the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, the UN secretary general, Egypt, and Sweden. The paper settles the Palestinian debate on issues related to negotiations.

During tonight's session, the PLO Central Council discussed the future of Palestinian-Syrian relations and reviewed the meetings between the two sides. The Council members stressed the need to release the detainees as a gesture of Syrian goodwill and as a prelude to the continuation of a dialogue to define the features of future relations.

Discussions at the Central Council are continuing.

The delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine submitted an organizational paper, the delegation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine is participating in the Council's meetings and will tomorrow meet with an Iraqi delegation headed by

Tariq 'Aziz. This meeting will end a 10-year estrangement between the two sides.

PLO Group To Visit Damascus in November

LD1510130689 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 15/10/89 (APS)—A delegation of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will go to Damascus at the beginning of November, the weekly AL-HADAF, mouthpiece of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). [sentence as received]

The exact date of this visit will be fixed during the works of the PLO Central Council which start Sunday [15 October] in Baghdad, the weekly added. The Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar' announced on October 3 in New York that a Palestinian delegation which may be led by the head of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, would come to Damascus in the forthcoming weeks. He met the head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, [words indistinct] works of the UN General Assembly.

'Arafat Speaks on 26th Anniversary of YAR

JN1410190889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the 26th anniversary of the 14 October Revolution in the Yemen Arab Republic, on 13 October—recorded]

[Text] While meeting with you here today on this dear occasion, the anniversary of the 14 October Revolution, which is an extension of the mother revolution—the 26 September Revolution—the Palestinian revolution considers itself as an indivisible part of these revolutions, or this one revolution, the 26 September Revolution and the 14 October Revolution. From this premise, I tell you as we meet here in Aden, the land of revolutionaries and of free men, and the land of revolution, while we are meeting here in Aden, your brothers in the holy land, Palestine, are suffering from a U.S.-Israeli decision—not only an Israeli decision. We are not only confronting the crazy Zionist campaign against our women, children, and men, but we are basically confronting a U.S. decision. I say a U.S. decision and I mean what I say.

It is not at all a coincidence that at a time when a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was opened on the basis of the Palestinian initiative launched by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Algiers last year, and which I then announced in Geneva... [sentence incomplete as heard] Following this, a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was opened as a result of mediation by the Swedish foreign minister. Then, for the first time, we heard the U.S. President call for the end of the Israeli occupation. He used his English expression "the end of the Israeli occupation" [preceding phrase in English]. Then his secretary of state said that Israel should abandon its expansionist dreams. We regarded this as auspicious. Then the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue began to take its course. At the same time, we were surprised by a plan from Shamir. Israeli Defense Minister Rabin said that this plan is not an Israeli one, but an Israeli-U.S. plan. We know this.

Your excellency, secretary general, allow me to elaborate a little on this issue. Rabin says that it is not an Israeli plan, but a U.S.-Israeli one. God be praised, we read and read. It is not, as Dayan said, that we do not read. We read everything, and we know everything. This plan announced by Shamir is contained in a book entitled "Building for Peace," which was published by an institute headed by Walter Mondale. Kissinger's students prepared this plan before the recent U.S. elections. They published this book under the name "Building for Peace."

The U.S. Administration has forgotten everything. It has forgotten the Palestinian initiative that was adopted by the Arab Casablanca summit, and which later became a Palestinian-Arab initiative. The U.S. Administration has also forgotten Resolution No 176, which was passed by a majority of 148 votes. This resolution was considered a UN General Assembly initiative to hold an international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the permanent UN Security Council member states and all the parties to the conflict in the region, including the State of Palestine and the Israeli enemy.

The U.S. Administration has forgotten the peace initiative launched by Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev, who advocated an international conference, and who said that to facilitate the convocation of an international conference, a preparatory committee should be formed from the permanent UN Security Council member states to pave the way and prepare for the international conference. It has forgotten the Madrid statement issued by the EEC states, which also expresses support for an international conference to be attended by the UN Security Council permanent member states, including the PLO. They also expressed support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including every dimension of this right. It has also forgotten the initiative presented by the Scandinavian states' foreign ministers, which also advocates an international conference and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establishing their independent state. And it forgot the statement issued in Bucharest by the East bloc, which stressed the need for the Palestinians to have a state just as the Israelis have a state, and that this should take place through an international conference under UN auspices to be attended by the UN Security Council permanent member states.

Not only this, but it has even forgotten its allies' views, such as the Japanese view, which stressed the need for holding an international conference and for the PLO's participation in this conference, under UN auspices and with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent member states. The Japanese position also supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination

and to establishing their free and independent state. It forgot these things and adopted Shamir's plan.

Your excellencies, secretary general and chairman, I am not accusing the U.S. Administration of something it has not done. On behalf of the U.S. Administration, and in his testimony at the U.S. Congress, John Kelly said: We wholeheartedly adopt Shamir's plan. Why? Because it is a U.S. plan that is contained in the book "Building for Peace" which was published by the institute that is headed by Mondale.

The United States adopted this argument, forgetting the entire international position—the positions of all the international groups, such as the Arab states, the nonaligned states, the African states, the Islamic states, the socialist states, the EC states, the Scandinavian states, Japan, China, the socialist bloc, Canada, and Australia. The United States ignored all this and adopted its position. Therefore, we ask: Why this rigidity and what does it mean? This attitude means a return to establishing Bantustans for the Palestinian people. A canton in the West Bank. Three cantons. [as heard]

On the map in which they annexed the West Bank, there is a strip along the River Jordan and the Dead Sea. There is a northen part and a southern part of the West Bank, and in the middle there is so- called greater Jerusalem, which they are officialy annexing. Then there is the Gaza Strip, which is also divided into two parts. They established a barrier of settlements between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. All these parts are connected by passages.

What does the U.S. Administration mean? From here, from Aden, from revolutionary Aden, I address myself to President Bush. What do you mean? Who in the U.S. Administration are we to believe? Do we believe your statement that the Israeli occupation must end or do we believe what the U.S. Administration is doing in full coordination with the Shamir government? This is a plot. The aim is to prolong the talks, dialogue, and discussions until the intifadah ends—or so they imagine. However, I want to tell you something. On 16 December 1987 when the intifadah broke out in the West Bank and Gaza, Rabin was in Egypt. They asked him about the demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza. He said they are mobs and when I return I will wipe them out in 2 days.

At that time I was in Sanaa, north Yemen. I answered him from Sanaa. I told him: Take 2 days, 2 weeks, 2 months, 2 years. We will wait and see what you will do. My brothers, in 2 months we will begin the 3d year of the intifadah, which will continue, wave after wave, until the independent state is established. They use U.S. money and weapons. I have the right to ask President Bush: Where is the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people? You demand the right of self-determination for the 1,800 people on the Falklands Islands. You want their national rights and human rights. What about the 6 million Palestinians? Do they not have rights? Does this mean that human rights can be heard everywhere except where the Palestinians are concerned? I have the right to ask President Bush this question.

Why the silence? It is because they intend to kill the Palestinian people. Daily massacres are being committed against the Palestinian people and nobody says anything. On the other hand, any dissident in the Soviet Union can get all the propaganda he needs. Are our children not humans? So far, 943 have been martyred, 60 percent of them below the age of 16. Some 48,000 have been injured and 6,500 handicapped by poison gas and rubber and live bullets. I am not the one who says they use poison gas. Two medical teams, one American and one Belgian, say so. They have taken samples. They launch chemical warfare against the Palestinian people. The chemical warfare is the same whether the chemicals are thrown from a helicopter or fired from a rifle. It is chemical warfare against our people wheher it is on a small-scale, medium-scale, or large-scale. There have been 5,000 spontaneous abortions because of the chemical gases. We have between 63,000 and 64,000 detainees being interrogated. What is happening in Nabulus and Bayt Sahur? The barbarians did not do what the Israelis did in Bayt Sahur. They stormed the houses and confiscated everything as taxes. I say everything. If a house, for instance, owes 50 dinars, they take everything, including the furniture and the children's clothes and toys. This is because Bayt Sahur refused to pay taxes to the colonialists. It has the right to refuse to pay taxes. This is part of the civil disobedience.

Nabulus has been under total curfew for 47 days. Continuous murder in cold blood. Gaza is a large prison. Of the 340 square km of Gaza, 140 square km have been confiscated for settlements. Only 200 square km remain. There are 800,000 people living on 200 square km. This means there are 4,000 people on a single square km or 4 people on one square meter [as heard]. There is starvation in Gaza. Nevertheless I tell them: You can kill us, starve us, or slay us. The revolution and intifadah will continue until we hoist the Palestinian flag on the Palestinian part from the south to the north. Together until victory.

Intifadah Leadership Rejects Baker Plan

JN1510163089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the occupied territories has announced its rejection of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point initiative, considering it an attempt to revive the Camp David accords.

In statement No. 47, the Unified Leadership stressed that its position as well as that of the PLO is firm and unwavering in its rejection of Shamir's plan and all attempts to peddle a new Camp David.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Rejection of Baker Plan

JN1410112189 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Oct 89 pp 1, 16

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Excerpt] The PLO has rejected the American five-point plan presented to Egypt and Israel by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. In a statement to AL-BAYAN, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said the U.S. plan does not constitute a way out; it constitutes U.S. support for the Israeli position. He stressed that the issue of Palestinian representation through the PLO is nonnegotiable either with the Americans, the Israelis, or within the framework of the proposed trilateral meeting among the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who heads the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the United States, added that the PLO is the party to determine the members of the Palestinian delegation, from inside and outside the occupied territories, to the talks with Israel. The dialogue, he added, must be a step within the framework of preparations for the convening of the international peace conference, and must be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, not on Shamir's election plan, which the PLO has rejected, or Egypt's 10 points, which do not constitute a good basis for the initiation of the peace process because they do not include important elements such as Palestinian representation through the PLO, the international conference, and the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories.

In his statement to AL-BAYAN, 'Abd-Rabbuh described Baker's proposals as a rescue line thrown out by the United States to get Shamir's plan out of its stalemate and to break Israel's isolation. For, he added, the proposals are essentially in line with the Israeli position. They give Tel Aviv the right to control the formula of Palestinian representation on one hand, and, on the other, impose Shamir's plan as the basis of negotiations in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, 'Abd-Rabbuh added.

The Palestinian official noted that the PLO has not officially received the U.S. proposals although an official dialogue between the two sides exists. We do not receive proposals through mediators so long as there is a dialogue with the United States, he said, stressing that there are contacts with Egypt, but not in its capacity as a mediator.

'Abd-Rabbuh went on to say that the U.S. side knows that if it presents Baker's proposals to the PLO, its answer will be a big "no," because the PLO rejects any encroachment upon the issue of Palestinian representation and refuses to have Shamir's plan as a basis of or even an introduction to a discussion of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Baker Plan Tries To Maintain 'Vicious Circle'

JN1410194489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1747 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Radio correspondent's news analysis: "A New U.S. Bias"]

[Text] Brothers, 2 days ago, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker proposed a new U.S. initiative on the conflict in the Middle East.

The five points made by the U.S. secretary constitute an initiative flattering to, and biased in favor of, the Israeli occupation rather than an initiative to move matters forward and find a way out of the deadlock in the peace process in the Middle East caused by the Zionist position against the basic requirements for peace.

We are not saying anything new when we say that the United States is still trying, unsuccessfully, to keep the PLO out of any negotiations on the Palestine question, which represents the crux of the conflict in this part of the world.

Nor are we saying anything new when we assert that the United States of America still lacks the minimum degree of credibility on the subject of a solution to the Palestinian-Zionist conflict. In fact, the United States seems to be sticking more firmly than ever to its blind and absolute bias in favor of the Israeli occupation.

Through its understanding of this fact, however, the PLO is determined not to allow the U.S. Administration to continue tampering with the Palestine question just as it wishes. Therefore, the PLO had to announce that it will reject the latest U.S. proposals represented by the five points sent by the U.S. secretary of state to the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel on the formation of the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel.

The U.S. proposals, as reported by our official Palestinian sources, support Israel's position on negotiations with members of the PLO. The U.S. Administration announced that it understands Israel's desire to negotiate with a Palestinian delegation that it approves of.

In our opinion the vicious circle, in which the United States is trying hard to keep the Palestinian-Israeli conflict trapped, will expand further. We believe that even worse complications will be added to the current ones.

At any rate, this new U.S. position is not new. Nevertheless, the PLO, which moves on more than one political and diplomatic level, will try to persuade its friends and the friends of its people that the popular Palestinian intifadah has proposed its own alternative on peace—one which is based on international legitimacy and achieving our Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Leadership Urges No Concessions in U.S. Dialogue

JN1310195489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Oct 89 p 30

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] In a recent meeting in the Tunisian capital, the PLO leadership reviewed the recent developments pertaining to the Palestine question, in the aftermath of the enemy government's rejection of the so-called 10 Egyptian points. In statements to AL- ANBA', four PLO leaders urged the pursuit of a political line rejecting concessions and stated that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue that has been going on over the past 10 months has served U.S. rather than Palestinian interests.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], indicated that the talks recently held between the United States and the USSR on the Middle East conflict have reached deadlock due to U.S. insistence on holding the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on the basis of Shamir's election plan and that the Palestinian delegation to this dialogue should be made up of figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Hawatimah added that the Palestinian peace initiative and the eruption of the intifadah have not changed the U.S. total bias toward Israel.

Hawatimah reaffirmed that the Palestinian leadership has agreed to give total adherence to the peace initiative launched by the Palestine National Council, and to continue to base its moves on this initiative in the search for political solutions that would safeguard the interests of all parties in the region on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced solution to be found through an international conference.

Hawatimah expressed the PLO's readiness to accept all forms of preparatory meetings with the Israeli side to help prepare for the convening of an international conference. He set the condition that such meetings must be held at one of the UN headquarters venues, with the participation of the UN secretary general or his representative, and representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. He stressed the PLO's repeated position that no country has the right to interfere in the process of forming the Palestinian delegation and that only the PLO has the right to form that delegation. Hawatimah branded the current U.S. moves on consultations with Egypt and Israel on the formation of a Palestinian delegation as a new extreme by the U.S. Administration in its overlooking of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people.

The DFLP secretary general added that the Palestinian leadership, which has studied the U.S. and Israeli positions, will propose to the PLO Central Council due to meet 4 days from now in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, a new plan for effecting moves. A committee has been formed to draw up this plan which will be submitted to the PLO Executive Committee meeting on 14 October.

Asked whether the Palestinian leadership will harden its positions in the future, [PLO Executive Committee member] 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad said that the flexibility shown by the PLO in its dialogue with the United States, out of an eagerness by some PLO leaders to render this dialogue a success, must acquire further clarity but not any further cost in concessons. He called for changing the form of this dialogue, which has been going on for 10 months. He added that the United States is attempting to drag the PLO to further acts of forfeiture of rights and concessions. He went on to say that the the final outcome of the dialogue has so far been in the interest of the United States rather than the Palestinian people.

PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab referred to the Egyptian points by saying that no Palestinian official can endorse any plan containing concessions on the principles contained in the Palestinian peace initiative, particularly the right to self-determination, the representative status of the PLO, and the international conference. Al-Najjab spoke about the reports circulated on U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli contacts on the formation of a Palestinian delegation and described this as a provocation and a clear conspiracy against the Palestinian people and the PLO. He described such moves as a violation of the Arab summit resolutions.

PLO Executive Committee member Jawid al-Ghusayn said that the U.S. position is a mirror image of Israeli ideas and an attempt to peddle these ideas and impose them on the Palestinian people. He added that the dialogue with the Americans has produced no results and called for continuing the Palestinian march "as if the dialogue were never launched."

Source Says PLO Reassessing Relations With U.S.

JN1510181089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 Oct 89 p 20

[By 'Atif 'Awdah in Rabat]

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the PLO's leadership is now reassessing the PLO's policy with the United States. Informed Palestinian sources have said that the reassessment of relations with the United States will include the basis of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in Tunis and the whole of Palestinian channels of communications with the U.S. Administration.

The source [as published] asserted that the trend is for the PLO to harden its line on the basis for the dialogue and to put an end to the U.S. policy of maneuvering in the Tunis dialogue, which ended in a deadlock.

The source stressed that the criticism leveled by Edward Sa'id, member of the Palestine National Council, against the nature of U.S.-Palestinian relations echoed strongly among the PLO leadership, and that this criticism was recirculated among all PLO organs. Edward Sa'id had urged the PLO leaders to change their method of action on the U.S. arena and not to grant any concessions concerning relations with the United States. He also

stressed the need to present the subjects under discussion through the media and urged 'Arafat not to go to the United States unless he was officially invited.

The source asserted that the PLO has notified a number of concerned Arab states, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, of its intention to pursue a new policy in dealing with the U.S. Administration.

The source added that the PLO Central Council, scheduled to meet in Baghdad tomorrow, Sunday, will study a new formula which the Palestinian leadership will propose to develop the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. The source said this development will also be raised during the meeting of the joint Palestinian-Soviet committee which will be held in Moscow this month and which will be chaired on the Palestinian side by Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin.

Official Denies 'Arafat, Gorbachev Met in Berlin

JN1410054889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Oct 89 p 21

[Text] Moscow—Bassam Abu-Sharif, press adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, concluded his official visit to Moscow yesterday. The visit has special importance and included an agreement to hold a meeting of the Soviet-Palestinian coordination committee to discuss in particular the developments in the Palestine question.

Sa'id Abu-'Amarah, Palestinian charge d'affaires in Moscow, has told AL-ITTIHAD that no time or place has been determined for the meeting, which, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said yesterday, will be held shortly. In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, he added that the meeting is intended to reassess the Middle East situation.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] added that the most important issues to be discussed in the meeting are: the latest developments in the occupied Arab territories; ways of backing the intifadah; the results of the meetings between the Palestinian delegation at the United Nations, headed by Faruq Qaddumi, and the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, and the Arab, Islamic, and European countries; and the expediting of an international conference for settlement in the Middle East.

The Palestinian charge d'affaires in Moscow said that special importance is attached to Abu-Sharif's visit to Moscow, since he conferred with the Soviet Foreign Ministry officials on the most prominent topics of concern to the Palestinian and Soviet sides.

The Palestinian charge d'affaires denied reports that the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in East Berlin.

Meanwhile, Soviet Foreign Ministry sources confirmed to AL-ITTIHAD yesterday the accuracy of the Palestinian charge d'affaires remarks. Alitshov [name as published], deputy chief of the Middle East and North African Department, denied that such a meeting took place between the Soviet and Palestinian leaders in East Berlin.

It is worth noting that Soviet media have not mentioned 'Arafat's name among the figures with whom Gorbachev met in East Berlin.

Official Says 'Arafat Met Gorbachev in Berlin

JN1510172789 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 Oct 89 p 20

[By 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Khashshan in Moscow]

[Text] Sa'id Abu-'Amarah, the Palestinian charge d'affairs in Moscow, has explained that he did not deny the reports circulated about a meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in East Berlin last week.

He confirmed that the meeting had taken place. He said: What happened was that I answered a question about the meeting by saying that I had no information on what was discussed in the meeting.

PLO Officer Comments on New Political Plan

JN1510213789 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Oct 89 p 20

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has disclosed the draft plan of the new Palestinian political movement and its basic pillars. This plan is supposed to be finalized by a special committee representing all the Palestinian factions before the 15th of this month in order to be submitted to the PLO Central Council, which will convene in Baghdad tomorrow, for discussion and amendment before endorsing it.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, Al-Najjab said the PLO's new political movement plan hinges on five basic points:

1. Adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative as approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in its 19th session in Algiers, rejection of any pressure or attempts to push the PLO into relinquishing this policy, and obstruction of any plans conflicting with this initiative, which enjoys popular Palestinian support, especially from the intifadah masses in the occupied territories, and worldwide support, with the exception of the United States and Israel.

2. Work to continue the Palestinian peace offensive, which the PLO began at the 19th PNC session, based on the Palestinian peace initiative launched by President 'Arafat in Geneva last December.

3. The strength of this initiative and the strength of the support extended to it stem from the fact that the initiative depends on international legitimacy and the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN

General Assembly vis-a-vis the subject of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, whose crux is the Palestine question, on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and on the basis of the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and self-determination, guarantees of security and peace for all states in the region, and the continuation of the process of preparation for the international conference as the current task. Within this context, the PLO is ready to discuss any proposals contributing to this preparatory process and rejects any plans or pressure to divert the political movement from this direction.

4. Work to prompt the Arab countries to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions which adopted the Palestinian peace initiative in full and thus turned it into an Arab peace initiative. Within this context, it is no longer acceptable to procrastinate, delay, or obstruct the meeting of the seven member committee stemming from this conference whose political movement constitutes the mechanism for the implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions. Otherwise, this obstruction will enhance the effectiveness of the hostile political movement of Israel and the United States.

5. Internationally, joint Palestinian-Soviet moves should continue to prepare for the international conference; Palestinians should intensify political contacts with Western Europe to urge those countries to continue their political efforts on the basis of their advanced political position approved by the EC countries in the "Madrid Declaration" and to confront any attempt to retreat from that declaration.

Al-Najjab pointed out that the PLO's position on the elections will be defined by its affirmation that the Palestinian leadership represented by the PLO and its Executive Committee has shown a high degree of flexibility toward the issue and views it as part of a comprehensive settlement. He added that the Palestinian leadership also expressed its readiness to begin dialogue between a PLO delegation and an Israeli delegation to be attended by the permanent Security Council members and a representative of the UN secretary general on condition that this dialogue be the prelude to an international conference.

Al-Najjab explained that a definition of subsequent Palestinian political moves and a clear Palestinian position will remove any confusion that has emerged in the past. He added that with this plan, everyone will come face to face with his responsibilities; it will stop those who try to evade them, especially the Arab parties involved in the settlement, and block some of these parties from departing from the Arab consensus, particularly the Casablanca resolutions.

Al-Najjab stressed that all concerned Arab parties must adopt a clear-cut position regarding U.S. policies hostile to the Palestinian people and their rights, as well as to the Arab peace plan approved at the Casablanca summit conference.

He noted that during its recent meeting in Tunis, the Palestinian leadership stressed the need to fully abide by the Palestinian peace initiative when Arab political moves begin and not to tolerate any departure from this initiative and the Arab summits' resolutions. He added that in this regard, the Palestinian leadership's top priority is to get the Arab parties involved in the international conference moving, persuade the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Egyptian sides to abide by the unanimous Arab resolutions, and deal with any attempt to deviate from this plan.

Al-Najjab said the Palestinian leadership, during its latest meeting, stressed the need for and the importance of promoting Palestinian-Syrian relations as this would enhance common Arab action, adherence to the principle of a comprehensive settlement through an international conference, and implementation of the resolutions born of Arab consensus.

He denied reports that the Palestinian leadership had made a decision to discontinue the dialogue with the U.S. Administration over the latter's repeated hostile stances and that this decision will be presented to the Central Council for approval. He explained that in its latest meeting, the Palestinian leadership discussed in detail the position on dialogue with the United States and the usefulness of its continuation.

"The Palestinian leadership views the dialogue as a continuation of the struggle with the United States, but within a new framework," he said. "We are confident that the United States, which failed to destroy and ignore the PLO, will fail to contain the organization in this dialogue," he added.

He pointed out that the Palestinian leadership stressed two points in this regard: First, the need to continue Arab and international pressure on the United States and to confront U.S. pressure attempts. Second, the need to continue Palestinian political moves on all other basic fronts as the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue continues.

But Al-Najjab stressed that the PLO will continue, on its part, to put pressure on the United States and to openly demand that it recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian people's right to self- determination. It will also demand that the United States fully implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in addition to the other resolutions that recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He added that the PLO will demand that the United States stop its attempts to impose new Camp David formulas under the pretext of pushing the peace process. It will also demand that the United States abide by the formula of a comprehensive peace and stop providing cover for Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people.

Al-Najjab called on the PLO Central Council to act toward providing the required political protection for the blessed intifadah and to ensure new political gains

for it, as did the 19th session of the PNC in Algiers through its adoption of the new Palestinian political program.

'Abbas on Habash Statements, Baker's Proposals

JN1310213289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1620 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] In reply to a Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, correspondent's question on the recent statements made by Dr George Habash, [secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] has stated the following: Reports of the statements attributed to Dr George Habash reflect haste in making political judgments and the lack of a sense of responsibility—responsibility that every Palestinian leader should exhibit when making statements, specifically at this critical stage of the struggle of our Palestinian people and their blessed intifadah. The Palestinian and Arab arenas no longer welcome or accept such statements. Such statements harm our people and their struggle. Therefore, we appeal to the brother members of the Palestinian command and, by virtue of their responsibilities, to use wisdom, accuracy, and responsibility when making statements.

Differences of opinion and the expression of such differences is as much a right as a responsibility. That is why the statements attributed to Dr George Habash on President Husni Mubarak and Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] only serve those who are lying in wait to harm the PLO, its national unity, and its militant role, and our people's blessed intifadah. We would like to point out that the forthcoming PLO Central Council session will discuss, among other things, such behavior and statements. From this premise, we reiterate our appreciation for Egypt, its people, and its president, Husni Mubarak, for their support of the Palestinian cause and the PLO.

In reply to a question on the Palestinian 5 points which Brother Abu-Mazin announced the day before yesterday, and whether they constitute a rejection of James Baker's proposals, he explained the following: In announcing the 5 points, the PLO expressed the PLO's principled position. In this context, we would like to point out that we in the PLO have not officially received what have been considered U.S. ideas as the U.S. Administration has not conveyed, or addressed, them to us.

PFLP Reacts to 'Abbas Criticism of Habash Remarks

JN1410175789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] expressed regrets today about the criticism of its secretary general, Dr George Habash, by Mahmud 'Abbas—Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, because of accusations Habash had leveled at Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Abu-Mazin criticized Habash for voicing the opinion that Mubarak wants to abort the intifadah in the occupied territory by arranging an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo.

Reacting to Abu-Mazin's remarks, the PFLP expressed regret at his statement and his unjustifiable defense of the Egyptian regime and President Mubarak. The PFLP said that Abu-Mazin exceeded all limits in interpreting Habash's remarks, particularly with regard to Yasir 'Arafat.

Egypt

U.S. Response to Israeli Rejection Noted

JN1510175389 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Oct 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Israel Is Responsible for the Stalemate"]

[Text] Among the international powers that are interested in Middle East affairs, there is not one that doubts that Israel alone is responsible for the stalemate in the peace process. This stalemate was the result of the Israeli Inner Cabinet's rejection of Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo on holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip based on the initiative proposed by Shamir himself—which he expected the Palestinians to reject without giving reasons. However, the awareness of the moderate Palestinians foiled his expectations.

If the United States was hastening to contain the negative consequences of the Israeli rejection when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker called for U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli talks on the issue, we do not believe that this is an adequate or decisive way to change the Israeli position or to put it back on the right track to revive the peace efforts again.

We expected that Washington would use every means to force Israel to give a concrete response to the Palestinian leadership's positive initiatives. However, Washington still does not want to anger Israel, no matter how far its intransigence and rejection go.

The United States could contribute effectively to the peace process by opposing decisively all the Israeli leaders' desperate attempts to exclude the PLO from the negotiating table, and by informing them frankly that such attempts will be to no avail, because no Palestinian will accept any solution without the PLO, which they consider their sole and legitimate representative.

Certainly, Israel needs someone to warn it against the danger of continuing to ignore the PLO, because the PLO has become an established fact, recognized by all world states and the United Nations. Moreover, the United States itself is holding a dialogue with the PLO.

The intifadah, and its ability to continue and to stand fast despite all the repressive Israeli measures, proves that the Palestinian people will accept nothing short of a durable and just peace that could guarantee their right to self-determination.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Comments

NC1310163889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that the PLO alone is responsible for appointing its delegation to any negotiations or dialogue and stressed the PLO's rejection of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

In a statement to MENA today he said: This plan is not at all acceptable to us because only the PLO can appoint its representatives to any negotiations. He added that the plans of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Secretary of State Baker cannot be the basis for any dialogue. He noted that the PLO has defined its position, namely that the dialogue is a preparatory step to holding peace negotiations within the framework of an international conference on a comprehensive settlement.

The Palestinian official believes that the recent developments, such as the U.S. plan or the Israeli rejection or inflexible proposals, have only one aim: To waste time.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the PLO stresses that its peace initiative is the only correct one because it is based on international legitimacy.

Regarding the next round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in which he leads the Palestinian delegation, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The Americans have not yet officially told us anything about their proposals or ideas and whether they will bring plans similar to the five-point plan attributed to Secretary of State James Baker.

Regarding the next meeting of the Palestinian Central Council scheduled for Sunday in Baghdad, the PLO official said that the Executive Committee will submit a working paper to the Central Council that stresses the PLO's commitment to these principles and its rejection of any proposals or plans that contradict them.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the recent U.S. proposals are merely a cosmetic copy of the Shamir government's ideas and plans.

'Abd-Rabbuh arrived in Cairo early this morning as a member of the delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin.

Further on Israeli Rejection

JN1510160889 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "So All Matters Will Be Clear"]

[Text] The simplest basic requirements for international talks of any kind between two or more parties are that the participants have equal rights and that no party have any preconditions. Besides, the talks should take place in an atmosphere free of any threat or pressure whether covert or overt, implicit or explicit, and each side should have the right to choose its representatives to such talks. Will these requirements be met in the case of the talks demanded by the international community to end the bloody conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis which has lasted for scores of years?

Notwithstanding the fact that the Israeli side rejects the whole principle of dialogue and talks with the Palestinians, avoids any face-to-face meeting with the Palestinian side, and has used up all tricks, maneuverings, and deceptions to prevent such a meeting, it still should be

noted that the Israeli side has now resorted to other methods to hinder any direct negotiations with the Palestinian people's representatives who are recognized at both the domestic and international levels. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has begun planting thorns in the way of any effort related to this issue, whether by presenting proposals that he knows in advance will not be approved by anyone, such as holding bogus elections which he believes will ensure control over the awaited talks, or refusing any kind of supervision by a neutral international side on his proposed elections.

Shamir's latest and strangest condition is his demand for the right to object to some or all of those included in the Palestinian delegation for the talks. It is a strange condition, unprecedented in all serious international negotiations. To accept such a condition, the Palestinian side should also have the right to object to the composition of the Tel Aviv delegation. Will the Likud Bloc accept this?

The Palestinians want nothing less than just equality and the right to choose their own representatives in the talks that the entire world hopes will forever eradicate the hotbed of chronic tension in a sensitive area such as the Middle East.

PLO Executive Committee Members Arrive

NC1310073189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee members, arrived here from Tunis early this morning on a visit to Egypt that will last a few days. The visit is part of the ongoing consultations Egypt is conducting with the PLO to promote the peace process.

While in Cairo, the Palestinian officials will hold talks on the latest developments in light of the intensive contacts that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has held with both Egpyt and Israel over the U.S. proposal to break the deadlock in the situation and pave the way for starting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The talks will also precede the meetings of the PLO Central Committee in Baghdad on Sunday.

The Palestinian officials were met at the airport by Zuhdi al-Qidrah and Sa'id Kamal, Fatah, and PLO representatives in Cairo.

Talks Open in Cairo 14 Oct

NC1410110689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—A round of Egyptian-Palestinian talks was held here this morning. The Egyptians were represented by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime mnister and foreign minister. The Palestinians were represented by PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who arrived in Cairo yesterday. The talks will center on developments in the political and diplomatic moves to give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East as well as efforts to surmount obstacles obstructing a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani; Sa'id Kamal, Palestine ambassador in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, joined the Palestinian delegation to the talks, which were also joined for the Egyptians by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Further on Talks

NC1410151089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, said that today's meeting between a Palestinian delegation and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, took place within the framework of the consultations between the two sides on all current issues. He added that the Egyptian and Palestinian officials spoke frankly and in depth and that all matters were clarified.

Abu-Mazin said that the Palestinian delegation will travel to Baghdad and submit all the matters they discussed to the Palestinian leadership so that the leadership can make the appropriate decisions.

Answering a question about the issues discussed, Abu-Mazin said he believes that all the matters discussed will be submitted to the Baghdad meeting. He added that the Palestinian delegation, which came to Cairo with questions, listened to the Egyptian views on the issues.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinian stand regarding the latest developments is very clear. He stressed that any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue must be part of the peace process and part of the preparations for negotiations within the framework of an international conference. 'Abd-Rabbuh reiterated that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Abu-Mazin said that the PLO will name the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue and there must be no preconditions for the talks. He added that the framework for the dialogue must be the well-known, legitimate international resolutions approved by all parties concerned. Furthermore, this dialogue must constitute a step toward peace.

He said that with these conditions in mind, the Palestinian delegation will submit all issues and topics discussed at, and results of, its meeting in Cairo to the Baghdad meeting tomorrow.

'Abd-al-Majid on Dialogue

NC1410154889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that his meeting with a Palestinian delegation today was important and came within the framework of the ongoing consultations and coordination between Egypt and the Palestinians.

'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that Egypt is eager to advance the peace efforts in agreement and cooperation with the Palestinians. He added that the Palestinians will submit their contacts and consultations conducted today to the Palestinian Central Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow in Baghdad.

Palestinian Ambassador Accreditation Planned

JN1210195889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Oct 89 pp 1, 6

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Excerpt] AL-WAFD has learned from diplomatic sources in Cairo that in the next few days Egypt will accredit Sa'id Kamal as the first Palestinian ambassador in Cairo. The Egyptian move comes in reply to Israel's intransigence over President Husni Mubarak's proposal to hold direct negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Cairo. The diplomatic sources confirmed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will attend the ceremonies marking the accreditation of the first Palestinian ambassador in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Preparations for Al-Qadhdhafi Visit Noted

NC1410182089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1758 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 14 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that a meeting between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Libyan president [title as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will take place within the next few days.

MENA has also learned that the two presidents will hold other meetings in the future by exchanging visits to Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. A MENA correspondent reports that the city of Marsa Matruh is preparing to receive President Mubarak and his distinguished guest, President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

It has been learned that the talks between the two presidents will deal with the development of ties between the two fraternal countries and will include an exchange of views on Arab issues.

Al-Qadhdhafi Departs for Talks

NC1610074689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, left Tripoli for Marsa Matruh by road this morning to meet with President Husni Mubarak.

Col al-Qadhdhafi crossed the Egyptian-Libyan border at 0805 and was welcomed at the border by Matruh Governor Major General Kamal Mansur.

The talks between President Mubarak and Col al-Qadhdhafi will begin at the 'Arus al-Bahr Hotel in Marsa Matruh at 1000.

Mubarak in Marsa Matruh

NC1610091389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0829 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak arrived at Marsa Matruh air base at 1015 today to meet with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

Accompanying President Mubarak were Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Israeli Ambassador Meets 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1510125589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador in Cairo. The meeting lasted for approximately an hour.

In a statement after the meeting, the Israeli ambassador said the purpose of the session was to exchange opinions, ideas, and information on both the Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints. He added that we are at a sensitive and important stage in the peace process. He noted that Dr 'Abd-al-Majid and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens want to be fully informed of each other's views.

Ambassador Shamir pointed out that there are two points in dispute. The first is how to compose the Palestinian delegation, and the second one is over the subjects to be discussed by the Palestinians and Israelis regarding the elections. He added: The issue of a visit by Dr 'Abd-al-Majid to Israel had not been raised during the meeting, but we discussed the three-way meeting that Secretary of State James Baker had called for in Washington.

The Israeli ambassador noted that the U.S. Secretary of State is holding constant contacts with both the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers. He pointed out that he

conveyed to Dr 'Abd-al-Majid a verbal message from his Israeli counterpart explaining the Israeli position.

Ambassador Shamir said Israel's viewpoint is based on the Israeli peace initiative, which includes three phases. The first is that of the elections, the second is an interim phase, and the third deals with negotiations to reach a final and peaceful settlement of the conflict. He added: We are now in the stage preceding the first phase of the elections. According to the Israeli view, if we want to give impetus to the peace process we must concentrate on the elections, how they are going to be held, and the participation of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza in them.

The Israeli ambassador said the U.S. proposal is still under discussion by the Egyptians and the Israelis, adding that Israel is ready to discuss any problem directly related to the elections.

King Husayn Telephones Mubarak From Canada

NC1510063389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, who is currently visiting Canada, telephoned President Mubarak last night. The two leaders discussed the current situation in the region and exchanged views on developments in Arab issues.

Bulgarian Minister Signs Cooperation Protocol

NC1110202589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1806 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—A protocol for economic cooperation between Egypt and Bulgaria was signed in Cairo today. Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed on behalf of Egypt, and Khristo Khristov, minister of foreign relations and international cooperation [title as received], who is currently visiting Egypt, signed for Bulgaria. The protocol is designed to promote bilateral economic cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, electricity, transportation, and tourism. It also aims to promote cooperation in the financial field, regarding both loans and participation in capital investment, and to strengthen trade relations.

The Bulgarian minister stated after the signing ceremony that his government is anxious to strengthen bilateral relations in the economic, political, and commercial fields. He said this is apparent in the existing economic cooperation between the two countries.

He added that, during their visit, the members of the Bulgarian delegation met with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity; Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for war production; and Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism. The Bulgarian delegation also met with many economists and businessmen in Egypt.

Ends Official Visit, Departs

NC1210152089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1301 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Khristo Khristov, Bulgarian minister of economic cooperation [title as received], left Cairo for home at midday today following an official visit to Egypt. During his visit he attended the inauguration of the exports fair and signed a protocol for economic cooperation between Egypt and Bulgaria. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Denies Rumors on Eliminating Subsidies

NC1110140589 Cairo MENA in English 0720 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 (MENA)—At a meeting with commanders, officers, and troops of the second and third field armies in Ismailia yesterday, President Husni Mubarak said rumours claiming that prices of staples would be raised and that state subsidies would be abolished were not true, report the three Cairo Arabic-language morning dailies in their top billing and leading front-page stories.

The newspapers also highlight in their top billing the president's statement that wages were being increased annually by a calculated amount in order that the increases might not increase inflation if they were not counter-balanced by increases in production.

In his address, President Mubarak urged that Egyptian society be turned into a productive society and said that there was no alternative to development to build for the future.

President Mubarak said rumours claiming the government intended to raise prices of staples were not true, and that price increases reflected a world-wide trend that was not confined to Egypt. The increases resulted from several factors, notably the increase in prices of raw materials and intermediate goods as well as the increase in prices of equipment.

Reviewing the achievements of the first five-year development plan in all sectors, the president said the country's economic performance aimed at raising the standard of living especially that of limited-income citizens.

All the economic problems did not prevent Egypt from realizing the importance of having strong armed forces capable of action. "The Armed Forces are the supports of security and we must make every effort, sweat, and sacrifice to modernize the Armed Forces and provide them with equipment."

The president urged Egyptians to realize the danger of the increase in population and to be keen on securing the future of their children and grand-children. The population of Egypt had increased by 10 million since 1982, he said.

He said that Egypt had recovered all its territory and emphasized that was not possible before the war of the sixth of October 1973. "We live in a world that has every respect for the strong. Weakness is an invitation to the violation of rights. The Armed Forces are, therefore, Egypt's shield and main support," he said.

President Mubarak said Egyptian-Libyan meetings were making progress in the interests of the two brotherly peoples, and that he would meet with Libyan President [title as received] al-Qadhdhafi and that the date of the meeting would yet be set and declared. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Talks to Army on Domestic Issues

JN1310105689 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Oct 89 p 1, 3

[By 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Adas]

[Excerpt] Ismailia—During his meeting with the commanders, officers, and men of the 2d and 3d Armies in Ismailia yesterday, President Husni Mubarak said there is no truth to rumors about raising the prices of basic commodities or canceling the government's subsidies.

The president announced that the salary increases are effected annually in a calculated manner in order to avoid further inflation resulting from the failure to increase production in the same proportion. The president called for transforming our society into a productive one, asserting that we will not be a consumer society and adding that development is indispensable for the future. The president said that the economic programs are designed to raise living standards, particularly for those with limited income. He stressed that sacrifices must be made to develop the Armed Forces and keep them strong and capable.

The president noted that the Egyptian-Libyan meetings are making progress for the benefit of the two sisterly countries and that he will meet with President al-Qadhdhafi. He said: We are going to fix a date for the meeting, which will be announced in due course.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that during his meeting wih the officers and men of the 2d and 3d Armies, the president congratulated the Armed Forces on the great victory day, emphasizing that victory day bears a special significance this year because the entire Egyptian territory and soil were restored earlier this year.

The president said that before 6 October 1973, it would have been impossible to realize peace or restore the entire Egyptian soil without the sacrifices, the noble fighting, and daring operations of our Armed Forces. The president declared that he was eager to explain Egypt's foreign and domestic policies.

The president then dealt with domestic policy, particularly the economic situation. He noted that economic programs seek to raise the standard of living of all sectors of society, especially those with limited income. The president said that the march of economic development and reform began in 1981 when the people entrusted him to assume responsibility.

The president said: I had a very clear picture concerning national issues. I was convinced that the economic reform, the establishment of the infrastructure, and the drastic solutions to problems should have top priority because the infrastructure had completely collapsed, precluding any genuine development, expansion of services, or any improvement in tourism, industry, or agriculture, as well as any attempt at inviting investors in view of the total collapse in which we lived.

The president stated that it was impossible for the Egyptians to continue to suffer the inadequacy of drinking water, the problems of the sewage system, and the paralysis in the telephone network. The economic conference of 1982 was held to ascertain the experts' opinions and fix the priorities of the first 5-year plan.

The president then dealt with the achievements of the first 5-year plan and gave several examples in industry, investments, electricty, telephones, roads, and means of communication, as well as newly established industrial and agricultural towns. He said despite difficulties, we are taking serious steps on the road toward economic reforms. The president said that we have problems and a budget deficit, and this will continue as long as we are taking the difficult path, the path of development where we are making big investments.

The president said there is no other path to follow, declaring that we will not turn into a consumer society but will work to become a productive society in which equality and self-reliance will prevail. This, he said, can be achieved by planning, perseverance, patience, diligence, and the renunciation of certain bad habits of consumption. This is the glorious October spirit, he added.

Turning to the debts issue, the president said that the entire world is experiencing and discussing the debt problem. He stressed that the major industrial nations should shoulder their responsibility in helping the developing countries avoid economic depression and unemployment and stop heading toward a world economic slump.

The president explained the IMF role and the Egyptian-IMF negotiations to activate the Egyptian economy and enable Egypt to finance the plan's projects. On the price hikes, the president explained that rumors about the government's intention to raise the prices or cancel the subsidies on basic commodities are not true. The president said that prices are rising all over the world and not only in Egypt. This price rise is caused by several factors, the most important of which is the rise in world prices of raw materials and intermediate products and equipment.

The president explained the importance of striking a balance between prices and wages, taking into account the genuine increase in production. To raise wages

without a corresponding rise in production means inflation. It means a jump in prices that cannot be absorbed by the society. Therefore, the president added, wages and salaries are increased annually in a calculated fashion in order to maintain the acceptable balance in prices and preserve the social equilibrium.

On the population problem, the president said that it cannot be separated from the economic issue and indeed it is the cause and the cornerstone of this issue. Egypt's population increased by 10 million since 1983, he said, adding that we should realize the consequences of this increase and its burdens in terms of unemployment and services such as education, electricity, transportation, health, and communications.

The president appealed to the Egyptian people to realize the danger of the population explosion and to think of the future of their children and grandchildren with the aim of establishing healthy families and a sound society. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister on 'Faltering' Companies

JN1410081189 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Oct 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Industry Minister Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab has stressed that there is no intention of liquidating any production activity no matter what the circumstances are. He said that 80 percent of the public sector companies have made between 10 and 40 percent profit, and that the percentage for a number of companies reaches 70. Official reports, he added, prove that 48 industrial public companies make large profits.

In the meeting held by the commercial and industrial activity secretariat of the National Democratic Party, under Dr Fathi Muhammad 'Ali, the minister said that President Husni Mubarak is personally following the problem of the faltering production companies and projects belonging to the public, private, and investment sectors. He added that the committee which President Mubarak had given directives to establish under Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, has succeeded in rectifying the conditions of three companies.

The minister said that the industrial public sector has been subjected over the past period to a baseless, malicious campaign to sow doubt, and that the faltering industrial public sector companies do not number more than 6 "suffering structural problems" out of 115 companies. There are 16 loss-making companies, including 4 that had losses this year after they had been among the profit-making companies, he said, adding that there is a study to rectify this and counter the problem. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Egypt, Mubarak 15 Oct

LD1310182389 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Sources at the Egyptian president's office today said that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will meet with President Husni Mubarak next Sunday on his first visit to Egypt in 16 years. The sources added that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will pay a 24-hour visit to the Egyptian town of Marsa Matruh, situated on the Mediterranean coast.

JANA on Upcoming Visit

LD1510140189 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY (JANA) has learned that a meeting between the brother leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak will take place tomorrow, 16 Rabi al-Awwal 1399 after the Prophet's death, corresponding to 16 October 1989, in the border region of Marsa Matruh [in Egypt].

JANA has also learned that the brother leader of the revolution will arrive to Marsa Matruh by road.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Panamanian Ministers

LD1310214189 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the Panamanian ministers of labor and tourism, who handed him a written message from Manuel Noriega concerning the situation in Panama. The two Panamanian ministers briefed the brother leader on developments of the situation in Panama. They also conveyed the gratitude of General Noriega and the Panamanian people for standing alongside and supporting the Panamanian people.

UK Paper on FRG Assistance for Missile

LD1510142289 London THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT in English 15 Oct 89 p 3

[Report by correspondents Michael Farr in Bonn, and Alan Philips, with additional reporting by Ian Traynor in Vienna: "Missile Parts Sale Revealed"]

[Text] A Munich firm called Globe-Sat exported vital rocket valve components to Libya, according to West German investigators.

The components have made a major contribution to Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi's scheme to build a ballistic missile armed with a conventional or chemical, or possibly even nuclear, warhead.

Libya has been trying to develop such a missile for years. As THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT revealed last week, West German engineers and companies are now playing a key role.

Heinz Stocker, the chief public prosecutor for the city of Munich, says he has concrete evidence that Globe-Sat exported valve parts, needed for guidance systems, without necessary permission.

A judge has issued a penal order requiring the firm's managing-director, Werner Ziegler, to pay a fine or go to jail.

Globe-Sat is contesting the order but the prosecutor is adamant: "With the evidence I have I am confident I can prove our case in court."

Mr Ziegler admits buying and selling valve guidance devices for civil uses, but denies exporting them—to Libya or anywhere else. "I don't even know what they are for," he says. "I am not an arms dealer."

Globe-Sat, set up in 1982, employs 12 people. It says its business involves oil exploration, satellite installations, and television relay in African and Arab countries, including Libya.

The crackdown against Globe-Sat is part of a world tightening of rules to stop Middle East countries like Libya, Iraq, and Egypt gaining access to missile technology and posing a threat to Europe's security. But many experts think it is too late.

Col al-Qadhdhafi's proposed missile would have a range of 300-450 miles and thus could strike across the Mediterranean at NATO's Sicilian air base.

His major problem has always been the development of an accurate guidance system.

Investigators are also looking at companies in Austria and Switzerland helping in the missile project, code-named Al-Fatih—the Conqueror.

Government investigators in Western Europe and America cite several links:

Technical Oil Production (TOP), set up in West Germany in 1984 by a Libyan named Abderrahim M. Badr, was used as a front company by Libya to procure guidance systems.

Mr Badr was banned from West Germany in 1987 for illegal exports, including components for Al-Fateh. He moved to Vienna but returned to Tripoli two months ago.

Fathi Zaki, an Egyptian-born Austrian citizen, organised a trip to Argentina last year, allegedly so that Al-Fatih project directors could seek Argentine expertise. Argentina is developing the Condor II, a rocket with a range of 600 miles, with Iraq and Egypt. Mr Zaki's Vienna company, Marketing, Trade and Industrial Development Co, is closed with an answering machine attached to the telephone. He worked from 1981-86 as consultant to Voest-Alpina, the state- owned firm under investigation over illegal arms sales to Iran and Iraq.

Several companies based in Lugano, Switzerland, have been training Libyans in missile technology and guidance systems. Such activities are not banned under Swiss law.

West German authorities have been forced to crack down on illegal sales of technology following revelations, initially denied by the Bonn government, that a company based in the Black Forest had helped set up a plant at al-Rabtah, Libya, capable of producing chemical weapons.

Bonn, under threat of U.S. sanctions against West German firms, is now keen to polish up its image.

Col al-Qadhdhafi has been trying to develop a missile for at least a decade. After the failure of experiments in 1979-81 involving the West German firm Otrag, he asked Soviet Union and China for long-range rockets.

He was apparently rebuffed, and is now engaged in the more laborious alternative of upgrading the Soviet-made SCUD, a crude rocket with a range of about 180 miles which is widely exported to the Middle East. Iraq, with the help of West German technicians, extended the range of the SCUD to 375 miles, firing about 180 of them on Teheran and other Iranian cities during the Gulf War.

Al-Qadhdhafi is reported to have offered Brazil, which is devleoping a medium-range missile, a $2bn arms co-operation package if it lent expertise to a Libyan missile.

Rocket experts say U.S. pressure on developed countries, exerted through the Missile Technology Control Regime, is making it harder for latecomers like Libya to acquire rocket technology.

"No single company can give you everything you need now. But if you divide up the problems and get components from here and there, it can be done," said Israeli missile expert Ze'ev Eytan. "Al-Qadhdhafi has money and ambition."

Sudanese Minister Pays 'Homage' to Relations

LD1210205589 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] United Nations, Al-Tumur [October] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr 'Ali Sahlul, the foreign minister of Sudan has paid homage to the Libyan Arab-Sudanese relations.

He has stressed that these relations are based on joint cooperation for the benefit of the one Arab people in both countries.

In comments made to JANA, Mr Sahlul said in New York that the viewpoints of both countries are identical in all political matters regarding what is going on in the Arab homeland.

People's Committee To Investigate 1980 DC-9 Crash

LD1410220989 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has announced the establishment of a Higher Investigation Committee in the Great Jamahiriyah to investigate the 27 June 1980 crash of the Italian airliner DC-9 near the Italian Island (Ostiko).

The committee is formed following indications that there was an abominable crime committed by the United States of America in firing a missile at that plane on the assumption that it was a Libyan plane carrying the brother leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This shameful crime, which has now been revealed, uncovers America's face, its behavior, and its continuous attempts to assassinate the brother leader. The assassination attempts will thus continue so long as imperialism continues in its terrorism and tyranny.

Morocco

King Hassan on Prospects for Maghreb Unity

LD1210134889 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 12 (MAP)—King Hassan II pointed out that the edification of the Arab Maghreb was a huge enterprise but that it was achievable and that its achievement was less difficult than that of Europe.

In an interview published by the French weekly magazine "POINT DE VUE, IMAGE DU MONDE" (Point of View, Image of the World), the sovereign compares the obstacles that had hampered Europe from achieving its unity and those that might check Maghreban union.

"In Europe, you had had fratricidal wars between all European countries. First, between Franks, Germans, Goths, Visigoths, and others. Later on there were religious wars, the advent of Protestantism. And then, every time there was a legacy, it was a new subject for war for everyone was claiming such shire or dukedom was his...and disputes broke," the sovereign said.

In the Maghreb "there is no problem of language, no problem of religion: unity of language and religion. There is no insular problem like that of Great Britain for example, no problem of nationality: Austrian-Prussian on one side, Franco-Flemish on the other. When you survey the history of Europe, you realize that it had been extraordinarily eventful...made up of a series of clashes...while in the Maghreb clashes do not exist and have never existed," King Hassan II said.

Besides, the sovereign went on, we Maghrebans have the same temperament: We are all Mediterraneans. Such is not the case in Europe where there are people of the north and people of the south...Maghreban countries are all located to the south of the Mediterranean and have therefore the same character even if every one has his own personality. "This is an additional asset that will make us gain a lot," King Hassan II said.

King Pardons Prisoners for Prophet's Birthday

LD1310084189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpt] On this noble occasion [the Prophet's birthday] the Ministry of Justice issued the following communique: Our Lord, His Majesty, may God make his pride and victory permanent, issued this order on the occasion of the anniversary of the noble Prophet's birthday in 1989, to pardon the remainder of the prison or detention sentence in the case of 219 prisoners. Also, to reduce the prison or detention sentences of 227 detainees; to transform life imprisonment to fixed term imprisonment in the case of 3 prisoners; to pardon the prison sentence while retaining the fine in the case of 6 people; to pardon the prison and fine sentences in the case of two people; to pardon the remainder of the prison sentence while keeping the fine in the case of two people. [passage omitted]

FRG's Von Weizsaecker on Bilateral Relations

LD1510230389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpts] At the gracious invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, his excellency the president of the Federal Republic of Germany, Richard von Weizsaecker, will arrive as a guest of Morocco on Monday, 16 October 1989, at 1500 GMT. [passage omitted]

On the occasion of this visit, President Richard von Weizsaecker gave an interview to MAP and Moroccan radio and television, in which he talked about the international personality His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, and the prominent role which his majesty plays in seeking solutions to the Middle East issue and the Lebanese crisis. The German president talked also about the Arab Maghreb Union, German-Moroccan relations, and several other issues. The following is the full text of this interview.

[Correspondent] Your excellency the president, the visit that you are going to pay to Rabat is considered the first official visit by a president of the Federal Republic of Germany to Morocco. What importance do you give to this visit?

[Von Weiszsaecker] It is above all an expression of the strong traditional relations which bring together the Moroccan and German peoples, as we have had excellent relations for a long time in the cultural, economic, and political fields, and we have a great consideration for your king, His Majesty King Hassan II, who plays a prominent role in the whole international scene and particularly in your region. His role also constitutes a link between North Africa, the Arab world, and Europe.

hence, I intend to hold political talks of great importance as far as German citizens and myself are concerned. [passage omitted]

M'Daghri Returns From Meeting in Algiers

LD1210104689 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Rabat, Oct 12 (MAP)—Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of Uma Affairs Moulay Driss Alaoui M'Daghri flew back home Wednesday coming from Algiers where he presided at the 3d session of the follow-up committee stemming from the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). [passage omitted]

The Algiers meetings also discussed the schedule of coming Maghreban meetings, mainly the meeting of foreign ministers in Morocco by the end of the current month and the Maghreban summit to be held in Tunis next January, the Moroccan official said.

Sudan

Army Reportedly To Upgrade Combat Capability

EA1310074689 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 89

[From the "Press Headlines"]

[Text] AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH daily Arabic newspaper headline the following: The People's Armed Forces' chief of staff says: The General Command aims at upgrading the combat capability of the Sudanese Army in youth conscription service in national defense. The Armed Forces is capable of recapturing all areas from the rebels.

Plans 'To Launch' Offensive

AB1310121589 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Alarming rumors have been circulating since yesterday concerning the fate of Former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi about whom nothing has been heard over the past 3 days. His cousin, Mubarak al-Mahdi, former internal minister, who is currently in London, has even raised the possibility of an assassination. These rumors were denied in Khartoum by the spokesman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council who said Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is still in Kowbar prison and is in good health. In fact to put an end to the speculation, Colonel Sulayman has invited anybody who so wishes to visit Al-Mahdi in prison. There is therefore no need to worry about the former Sudanese prime minister.

However, there is cause for alarm on the military scene with the risk of a new flare up. Apparently, the government Army is preparing to launch a vast offensive to recapture the positions captured in southern Sudan by Colonel John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA].

General Ibrahim 'Umar, chief of general staff of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has explained that with the assistance the Army has received from some Arab countries, the regular Army now has the means to launch an offensive if peace cannot be achieved through negotiations. Gen 'Umar added that his government is currently engaged in a vast program of reorganizing the Armed Froces as far as armament and training are concerned. He specified that Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt have already given considerable military support to Sudan, while Turkey, Syria, and Yugoslavia have promised to give their assistance as well. Also, joint training exercises will take place in Sudan in February with the participation of U.S. paratroopers. Some 3,000 young enlisted men will be mobilized to make up for the lack of personnel in the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, a member of the National Salvation Revolution Council, General Nayil Adam has asserted that several members of the Nuba tribe in the south have joined John Garang's SPLA in reaction to constant attacks by the Arab tribal militia who were organized and armed by the former re_ me.

Juba Garrison Reinforced

AB1310133589 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Oct 89

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] The Sudanese Army is reported to be reinforcing its garrison in the southern city of Juba, with heavy weapons she has received from China. The weapons, flown in by Sudanese and Libyan planes, are believed to include heavy artillery and mortars, antiaircraft guns, and truck armored personnel carriers. At the same time, rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army are said to be using an informal cease-fire, which has been in effect for the past few months, to tighten their grip on the area around Juba. A BBC correspondent in Khartoum says many people think the civil war will start again if peace talks fail or [words indistinct]. A member of Sudan's ruling military council, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has said that the peace conference taking place in Khartoum will recommend a federal system of government for the country. Col Khalifah is chairing the conference which was called by the government despite the refusal of the rebels to take part. He said another recommendation would be that the Islamic Shari'ah Law should not be applied to Christians in Sudan, one of the rebels' main demands. But a broadcast by the rebels' radio station described this proposal as an evil maneuver designed to confuse. The broadcast said the rebels hadn't taken up arms merely to get rid of the Shari'ah laws. It didn't comment on the suggested federal system.

Rebels 'Not Surprised' by Buildup

AB1310150089 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, Oct 13 (AFP)—An official of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) on Friday said his movement was not "surprised" by the Sudanese Government moving heavy arms into the besieged southern Equatoria provincial capital of Juba.

"The military build-up has been going on ever since the new junta took over power in Khartoum on June 30," Captain Nhial Deng Nhial said.

"This is regrettable as we would have preferred the junta to have accepted our peace offer and negotiated in good faith," he added.

Capt Nhial was reacting to a report Friday by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that the Sudanese Government had moved heavy arms supplied by the Chinese into Juba and that the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), armed wing of the SPLM, was also tightening its grip on the surrounding countryside. The weapons being moved into Juba did not come only from the Chinese as the government had "other sources" for its armament. Capt Nhial said, without mentioning what they were.

In Khartoum Thursday, Chief of Staff General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar was reported as saying that the military had been sufficiently strengthened by foreign aid to reconquer all positions seized by the rebels. He told the Armed Forces daily that Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt had already provided "considerable military support," while pledges of aid had been received from Syria, Yugoslavia, and Turkey.

Capt Nhial Friday said the SPLA was ready to defend its positions at any time though he declined to state what retaliatory measures it had in place or was contemplating. However, he said the SPLM still favoured talks with the government as the only viable way to peace.

SPLM leader John Garang has said his movement wanted a national unity government. A constitutional conference, general elections in Sudan and the merging of the SPLA with the Sudanese Armed Forces.

"These are not pre-conditions," he stressed during a visit to Zimbabwe two weeks ago as part of a three-week regional tour to garner southern African backing. "They are the SPLM's peace programme which we want the junta to discuss."

If Khartoum had better ideas to enrich this programme or to substitute for it, the rebels were ready to listen, he added. Reports of the arms build-up in Equatoria Province came as a unilateral cease-fire declared by the Sudanese Government since April and since renewed was believed to be still in force. [sentence as received]

The SPLM has also, for months, kept corridors open to allow the United Nations to get tens of thousands of tons of emergency food aid to famine-threatened people as part of its Operation Lifeline Sudan. The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 to free mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan from what it regards as domination by the Islamic north. It wants Islamic Sharia law scrapped.

Armed Forces Capture Israeli 'Spy' Falcon

EA1210170589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] On the last page of AL-INQADH AL-WATANI we read: An Israeli Falcon—Tourist or Spy? The Armed Forces in (Mazid) area, near the Sudan-Chad border, recently succeeded in capturing a falcon fitted with transmission devices bearing a name connected with the Israeli entity. The newspaper says that the incident is thought to be the first of its kind in Sudan.

In order to learn more details, AL-INQADH AL-WATANI contacted Major Muhammad 'Uthman Hasan, the general supervisor of Khartoum Zoo, who explained that the falcon had been transferred from military intelligence to the antipoaching department. Maj Muhammad 'Uthman also told AL-INQADH AL-WATANI that they did not regard the falcon's characteristics as unusual. On the falcon's right wing they found the words University of Tel Aviv and the number 100. He said that the falcon belonged to a purely scientific body concerned with the migratory pattern and habits of falcons and other scientific research. However, they did not rule out the possibility that the falcon could be some kind of touring espionage device.

Al-Bashir Briefed on Kordofan Security Situation

EA1310092789 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council] and prime minister, received at his office at the Republican Palace, in the presence of Brigadier Ibrahim Nayil Idam, Revolutionary Council member and national security adviser, a delegation of sheikhs from the town of Dilling led by Sayyid 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Rahman, governor of South Kordofan Province. They informed Gen 'Umar of the security situation in the region and their support to the revolution.

On the other hand, Brig Idam announced that the promulgation of the popular defense act will bridge the gap founded by the presence of the armed militias and that the government is determined to dissolve such militias. He also announced that an expanded conference for the tribes of southern Kordofan will be convened under the auspices of the governor of the region to solve the problem facing the peaceful coexistence between the tribes there.

Ibrahim Denies Split Within Command Council

PM1310092089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Oct 89 p 3

[Interview with Colonel 'Abd-al-'Al Mahmud Ibrahim, secretary general of the Command Council of the Sudanese Revolution for National Salvation, by Zayn-al-'Abidin Ahmad Muhammad in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Muhammad] There has been much talk about a coup attempt over the past few weeks. Despite the denials issued in one way or another, the recent arrests of politicians and trade unionists have given rise to more questions. What is the truth about the coup attempt?

[Ibrahim] The question is twofold. First, in answer to the question about a coup attempt and arrests, I assure you that the revolution was carried out by the Armed Forces with complete conviction because of the deteriorating situation in the country at the time. The Armed Forces sided with the people because they are part of the people, are hurt when the people are hurt, and want to see Sudan flourish.

There have been no coup attempts recently because the Armed Forces are united and enjoy full support. The rumors are tantamount to a hidden war and a desperate attempt to hinder and obstruct the sweeping current of the revolution. Looking at these numerous shaky and illogical rumors, you will realize that they could only influence the naive, but the Sudanese people are experts in political matters and do not lose sight of the facts, regardless of this flood of tendentious rumors.

Regarding the arrest of politicians and trade unionists, no arrests were made among these two groups except when it was established that either group initiated, helped, or concealed counterrevolutionary activities. At any rate, the judiciary will pass judgement for or against them. The guilty will be punished and the innocent against whom no charges are proved will be released. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] We would like to ask you to tell us the truth about the current conflict between the so-called Islamic and moderate tendencies within the Council, particularly as there is increasing talk about this matter, which requires an answer.

[Ibrahim] First of all, there are not two tendencies within the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. There is only one dynamic current and its sole objective is the salvation of Sudan as a state and of Sudanese citizens as human beings. Any such suggestions, whether stated or rumored, are merely an attempt to give the people the impression or to convince them that the revolution is limited and that it is bound to swallow up its own people. Such conflicts occur when revolutionary powers and positions are distributed, but in our case the RCC members have no selfish aims and are not seeking position or power. Their only concern is to save the country and stop the deterioration. I therefore resolutely deny any division or disagreement within the RCC.

[Muhammad] How do the dismissals and the purges carried out by the revolution occur, and what are the criteria, because some people claim that a large number of those retired were active, efficient, and sincere people—that is, of course, unless their political views were the problem?

[Ibrahim] Ever since the revolution's first statement, the leader has said that corruption and the corrupt would be hit hard and rooted out, so the government began purging the government institutions, the Armed Forces, and the police force of corrupt elements, regardless of their political views. It would be difficult to eliminate everyone having political views. That was never our aim. That is why the purge did not include everyone who has opposed the revolution. The proof is that the national dialogue conference has so far included former members of the previous partisan government, because we knew them to be qualified people who also are not hostile to the revolution. In fact they were helpful in every possible way. That is why they retain their normal place as Sudanese citizens and participate in such a major conference as the national dialogue conference. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] Relations with Egypt are not what they were at the beginning of the revolution, and relations with Libya are not clear or well-defined. What do you think?

[Ibrahim] Egyptian-Sudanese relations are eternal and deeprooted and born of the same womb and the same blood, irrespective of individual governments. Egypt was one of the first states to support and bless the new situation because it was sure of our goodwill and good intentions. As for Libya, the links between our two peoples are at their best, despite the damage done by partisan practices in the past. We have mutual respect and mutual interests and our relations are proceeding very well.

[Muhammad] The curfew has lasted a long time. Is this an indication of instability or is it, as some say, in the interest of stopping crime and exposing corruption?

[Ibrahim] The curfew was imposed strictly for security reasons. It was imposed not to secure the revolution but to maintain security, which was nonexistent under the former regime. We find that the number of people who want matters to stay as they are now is greater than we expected. People go home early and there is less crime. The curfew will be lifted when the reasons for which it was imposed disappear.

Defense Minister Meets Turkish, Chinese Envoys

EA1210092289 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1945 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] The defense state minister, Major General (retired) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, met this

morning his excellency the Turkish ambassador to Sudan. The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations between the armies of the two countries in the field of training. 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan met also the Chinese military attache and Chinese Armed Forces in the fields of training and the support of the Sudanese Army with advanced equipment. [sentence as heard]

Garang Briefs Mozambique's Chissano on Relations

EA1110190589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, expressed the solidarity of the SPLM/SPLA and the people of Sudan with the struggle in southern Africa against apartheid, racism, and destabilization. Wishing the revolution success in the current peace efforts, Dr John Garang expressed appreciation of the policy the party and Mozambican Government have introduced and commented that it was consistent with necessity.

He then went on to enlighten President Chissano on the general situation in the Sudan and explained to President Chissano the reasons for his visit to southern Africa. The SPLM/SPLA leader told the Mozambican president that the people in the Sudan are yearning for peace, and that is why he has gone to southern Africa to explain the movement's position on peace and to solicit support of the southern African people for the SPLM's peace program.

Like the other leaders in the independent southern African countries which the SPLA leader visited, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique gave his unqualified support to the SPLM/SPLA's peace program, which was presented to the junta in August this year, and he wished the SPLM/SPLA leader and the other peace-loving forces in the Sudan success in restoring peace, unity, and prosperity to the country.

The SPLM/SPLA leader was welcomed at the Presidential Palace by party leaders and government ministers and the press. Radio and TV journalists were present at the cordial welcome, and the SPLM/SPLA leader granted interviews to the press at the end of the meeting.

Commentary Denies Reports of Internal 'Strife'

EA1410064489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Radio commentary]

[Excerpts] The Khartoum clique and its self-consolation through self-deception—It appears that the ruling clique in Khartoum is now in a severe frenzy as a result of its internal and external isolation. It is no wonder then that its members are running around like stray dogs. On Monday, 9 October, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published a report quoted from the so-called daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI which is issued by the clique in Khartoum. The report, ascribed to a so-called southern Sudanese official, says that there is strife among the leaders of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and that it has extended to the movement's information network. On the following day, Tuesday 10 October, the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT journal reported a statement made by Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah to the journal's reporter in Khartoum. Khalifah repeated that which had been ascribed to the alleged southern official, who might be Khalifah himself, except that Khalifah added that the strife within the movement was between those he called the rightist group and the leftists. It is not necessary to look for a logical reason to explain why a responsible government with self-respect would propagate such a lie, and from within the government hierarchy.

Had the authorities left the fabrication to the more junior journalists of the yellow papers, which they publish in Khartoum, the matter would have been insignificant, but it appears that the standard of political maturity and social responsibility of the clique, little exceeds that of the editors of ALWAN and AL-RAYAH. Otherwise, how could the same man, who had sat with the representatives of the movement and witnessed their unified attention to all the issues discussed, say what he has said. [passage omitted]

What is making the clique so hot under the collar is its defeat on every battleground. It has been defeated on the battleground of domestic politics, where it has no support other than from the riffraff of the National Islamic Party (NIF). Likewise, it has been defeated in the diplomatic arena, where it has received successive blows from east, west, north, and south. It has also been defeated in the peacemaking arena, where its representatives have returned empty (?of ideas), having failed to achieve even the minimum which the former political parties were able to achieve. They have also failed in their seditious attempt to move towards partition, where the movement's response has been roared: Whosoever wants partition will have to fight for it. [passage omitted]

In the face of all this, the clique has nothing left but self-consolation through self-deception. We will never allow the clique to live comfortably under its illusions. We will, emphatically, force it to face reality. [passage omitted]

Rebel Radio on Abolition of Shari'ah Laws

EA1310083589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] According to reports from Khartoum, the chairman of the ruling military junta has circulated a letter to all the Sheikhs of the Sufi Orders and men of religion in Sudan, informing them of his intention to rescind the September [1983 Shari'ah] laws, in order to rescue his regime from the isolation it now finds itself in. Al-Bashir added that his decision would not harm Islam. Rather it was a tactical move, designed to confuse the

people's movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, SPLA]. In his opinion, the movement would not respond to this decision, which would enable him to carry out the second option on his agenda. Al-Bashir explained in the letter that the second option was to proclaim an Islamic republic and impose comprehensive Islamic laws, including the punishment for apostacy.

This statement means that death will be the fate of those who oppose the regime, including those who oppose the mixing of religion and politics. This evil maneuver unmasks the abysmal degree of deception, hypocrisy, and self-deceit that the junta can sink to. The SPLM would like to stress beyond doubt that it did not rise up in arms in 1983—nor will it do so today—for the mere abolition of the September laws. The movement fights and it will continue to fight to build a new Sudan, in which the homeland will belong to everyone and religion will belong to God.

The mention of the scrapping of the Septemebr laws in the Koka Dam declaration of 1986 and the freezing of Islamic punishments in the 1988 peace initiative are only aspects of the many procedural arrangements which the signatories including the Sudanese People's Liberation Army agreed to implement before considering the basic topics, which will be sorted out at a constitutional conference which fully represents the grass roots and is not a sham gathering. [passage omitted]

In order to settle the question and to clear the obscurity and delusion which the swindlers and counterfeiters would like to take advantage of, we wish to state that the road to peace is crystal clear. All political forces, with the exception of the National Islamic Front, agreed to follow it. They had actually started to implement practical procedures in this regard, but they were aborted by the June coup. [passage omitted]

Exchange Control Violators To Face Death Penalty

EA1310090089 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The minister of justice and the attorney general, Hasan Isma'il al-Bili, disclosed that the economic committee for the RCC [Revolution Command Council] will trace the exporters who export Sudanese produce and never remit the amounts due on those products in foreign currency, thus violating the foreign exchange act. He added that those who failed to return the money in the foreign currency will be liable under Article 19 of the foreign exchange act and that the capital punishments will [be] raised to the death penalty.

Bahrain

Al Khalifah Cited on Talks With James Baker

PM1610105089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Oct 89 pp 1-2

[Report on interview with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah by Muhammad Sadiq in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah has emphasized that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker responded well to all issues discussed at his meeting with ministers and officials from the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states in New York last Wednesday.

He said that Baker informed them that the United States was following with great interest the Arab tripartite committee's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis. Baker also emphasized that the United States backs the committee's efforts with all its strength.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in New York, Minister Al Khalifah announced that there were important developments and new ideas, and a task which will be carried out by the UN secretary general—a move, in fact, to implement Security Council Resolution 598 concerning the Iraq-Iran dispute. The secretary general will send his envoy to Iran and Iraq this month, October, to make a move in that direction. He explained in detail the discussions which took place at the meeting and the issues which were broached.

He said: Our meeting with Secretary Baker is an annual one at which the GCC raises the issues which concern it in order to hear the Americans' view of them. So the meeting was an exchange of views on issues that concern both sides.

He added that at this year's meeting the prime issue was economic cooperation between the United States and the GCC. [passage omitted]

Al Khalifah said: We are entering the 21st century and there are certain economic groupings, which is why some trade markets have started closing their doors to the GCC. So the GCC wants to work with these blocs in order to open doors to its growing trade and industry. The United States—as is the case with the dialogue with the EEC—is a leading state with regard to both industry and trade, which why we seek to maintain constructive cooperation between the two sides for the future: an important issue which was discussed at the meeting. [passage omitted]

The other issue discussed was a comprehensive view of the Gulf region with regard to the Iraq-Iran war, Al Khalifah said. At the meeting there was discussion of ways to change the current situation, which we do not accept—a state of neither war nor peace. We want to implement Resolution 598, end the tension, and restore peace and goodneighborliness in accordance with the principles of noninterference in internal affairs and the complete implementation of the resolution. [passage omitted]

In his interview Al Khalifah also said: We also discussed the Palestinian issue and spoke with Secretary Baker about events in the West Bank and stressed to him that what is happening—namely, Israel's inhuman policies and acts—must be stopped. We told him that Israel's terrorist acts against citizens, such the demolition of homes and the expulsion of citizens from their country, must be stopped.

He added: Secretary Baker told us that the United States is against such policies and acts. Our view was that the United States must work to stop these terrorist acts and this inhuman policy. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Al-Ta'if Meetings Discussed at Cabinet Session

LD1510145889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1312 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 15 (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers Sunday expressed strong hope that the Lebanese deputies, currently meeting in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, would come up with a plan for national entente and peace in Lebanon.

The council, which was presided over by H.H. [His Highness] the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah also discussed current Arab and international developments, said State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Rashid following the Cabinet's weekly session.

Al-Rashid indicated that at the onset of the session the council was informed about the message H.H the Amir had received from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn which contained an invitation to H.H. to attend Iraq's celebrations on the occasion of winding up the reconstruction campaign of al-Fan city.

He said the Cabinet's members approved a number of draft decrees concerning appointment of governors of the country's five governorates as well as appointment of 15 members of each governorate's council.

He added that Shaykh Sa'ad wished the governors and members of the governorate's councils success in carrying out their duties.

The council was then familiarized by the commerce and industry minister with the outcome of the 9th sesion of the committee for industrial cooperation concluded recently in Riyadh, al-Rashid added.

He pointed out that the Public Works Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Al-Huti informed the council on the results of the visit he made recently to Poland and the talks he held with top Polish officials on promoting and expanding bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Communications Minister 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Sharhan also briefed the council about the outcome of the GCC transportation and communications ministers' meeting held recently in Bahrain.

And the council listened to a report by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid on issues discussed during the 7th session of the Arab culture ministers in Rabat lately which centered on preserving the Arabic language and means of fostering interest in the Arabic culture and heritage.

The council sanctioned as well a draft decree for establishing a national committee for combating drugs and endorsed decisions in Minute Number 2/89 of the municipal affairs committee, al-Rashid concluded.

Oman

Libyan Envoy Delivers Message, Departs 15 Oct

JN1510162289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id, may God protect him, today received in his majety's office at the Prime Ministry Secretariat Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the envoy of His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Libyan envoy delivered to his majesty an oral message from his excellency the Libyan president.

Following that, the Libyan envoy left Oman after a short visit that lasted several hours. He was seen off by Housing Minister Malik Ibn-Sulayman al-Ma'mari.

Information Minister Returns From Pakistan

JN1410142289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Muhammad al-Rawwas and his delegation returned home this afternoon, concluding an official visit of several days to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the visit, Al-Rawwas conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id to His Excellency Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Al-Rawwas also held talks with senior Pakistani officials on promoting bilateral cooperation, particularly in the media field.

Upon his return, the information minister was received by Hamad Ibn-Muhammad al-Rashidi, Information Ministry under secretary for information affairs, the Pakistani charge d'affaires, and other Information Ministry officials.

PDRY

Party Secretary Ends Visit to GDR, Bulgaria

EA1310091689 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, returned to Aden this evening after ending visits to the GDR and Bulgaria. On arrival, the brother secretary general made a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY in which he said: During our visit to the GDR, we offered comradely congratulations to the party and state leaders and to the people of the friendly GDR. We had an opportunity to hold a number of cordial meetings with the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] leaders, headed by Comrade Erich Honecker, and with a number of leaders of communist and workers' parties and national fronts from sisterly and friendly countries attending the celebrations.

During those cordial meetings, the comradely relations between our party and country and the parties and fronts of those countries were discussed and assessed. We exchanged with their leaders views on the latest developments on a regional and international level which affect security, peace and cooperation. We also discussed other matters of common interest. We also acquainted ourselves with the experiments in economic and socialist construction in the context of socialist revolutionary (?modernization) and restructuring taking place in some socialist countries.

We also paid a cordial visit to the friendly People's Republic of Bulgaria, during which we met the leaders of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP], headed by Comrade Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the party's Central Committee and chairman of the State Council. We discussed many regional and international issues of common interest. We also acquainted ourselves with the Socialist Revolutionary experiment in the friendly Republic of Bulgaria, which has achieved positive victories in socialist construction and international politics that serve the cause of world peace, cooperation, and friendship among peoples.

On this occasion, I am happy to express my thanks and my appreciation, on behalf of the Central Committee of our party, to the BCP, the State Council and the people of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and to the SED, the Council of State and people of the GDR for their friendly welcome and hospitality.

PRC Deputy Minister Arrives on Visit

EA1210223089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Comrade Lu Xeujian, PRC deputy minister for foreign economic and trade relations, arrived in Aden yesterday evening at the start of a visit of several days to

our country, after which he will participate in the inauguration of the hero 'Ali Rif at Musana Hall, which is a sports center financed by the PRC with an interest-free loan. The hall will be inaugurated on Saturday during the celebration by our people to mark the 25th anniversary of the great October 14 revolution.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Lu expressed his happiness at visiting Democratic Yemen and [words indistinct] the friendly relations between our country and the PRC in different fields, stressing that his country would make every effort to develop these relations and to open new horizons for economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He was received by Brother Muhammad Awad [word indistinct] deputy minister of installations and housing, and the Chinese ambassador to Aden.

Helicopter Crashes in Training Flight 14 Oct

LD1510201189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1754 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Oct (SPA)—A source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation has declared that while on a training mission in the eastern region yesterday, Saturday 14 Oct 1989, a Jet Stream training helicopter suffered a major fault. The helicopter crashed and the five-member crew was killed. They were the late trainee Salih Ibn-Jum'an al-Zahranhi, the late trainee 'Iwad Ibn-Husayn al-Qahtani, the helicopter's pilot, Rodney Dicks, and the two trainers, Alan Smith and Daviston House. The last three were employees of the British Aerospace company.

United Arab Emirates

Libyan Envoy Al-Humaydi Visits Abu Dhabi

Offers Condolences to President

JN1310113889 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpts] For the 2d consecutive day, His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, today received at al-Nasr Palace those people offering condolences over the death of His Excellency Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, the deputy prime minister. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received the condolences of his brother, Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, over the death of His Excellency Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, the deputy prime minister.

This came when his excellency received Major al-Kuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and personal envoy of the leader of the 1 September Revolution, and the delegation accompanying him which is made up of commanders of the Libyan Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Delivers Message, Departs

JN1510140989 Manama W[illegible]KH in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAKH)—Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, left Abu Dhabi today at the end of a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] which lasted several days.

During the visit, the Libyan envoy delivered a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Yemen Arab Republic

Deputy Prime Minister in Aden for National Fete

JN1310133289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, arrived in Aden at noon today heading the delegation of the northern part of the homeland to attend our Yemeni people's celebrations of the 26th anniversary of the glorious 14 October revolution.

Upon arrival, he was received at the airport by brothers Fadil Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of state for unity affairs; Muhammad Ghalib Ahmad, head of the higher council for sports; and a number of officials in the southern part of our homeland.

In a statement to ADEN and SABA news agencies, Brother Hasan Makki expressed his joy and that of the members of the delegation from the northern part of the homeland at finding themselves in the valiant city of Aden which struggled against the loathed British occupation and achieved the independence of the southern part of the homeland. This was one of the basic goals of the 26 September revolution realized by the sons of our two people through the long struggle march.

He said: As we join our brothers in celebrating their 26th anniversary of the 14 October revolution in the southern part, we feel pride and dignity at finding ourselves in this struggling city which has honored Yemen and attained its independence.

Concluding his statement he said: We hope the day will come when we will land in this valiant city after our people realize their goal of Yemeni unity.

Dr Makki is accompanied by brothers Sinan Abu-Luhum, member of the Consultative Council and

Standing Committee; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee; 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', under secretary of the Youth and Sports Ministry and member of the Standing Committee; and a number of officials.

The brother deputy prime minister left for Aden this morning heading the northern part of the homeland's delegation consisting of various official and popular institutions to attend the celebrations of our people in the southern part of the homeland on the 26th anniversary of the 14 October revolution. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Confers With Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad

JN1510212689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, here this evening. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question and the escalation of the heroic intifadah of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The meeting was attended by the deputy official in charge of the liberation movements office at the Revolution Command Council, the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the ambassador of the state of Palestine to Baghdad.

Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Baghdad this evening on an official visit to Iraq.

Saddam Receives Saudi Envoy, Fahd's Message

JN1410122889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two mosques. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Atif al-Mulham, minister of state and personal envoy to his excellency from his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, conveyed the message to the president.

The meeting was attended by the Saudi ambassador to Baghdad.

CSSR Premier Leads Delegation on Visit

Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1410161689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—CSSR Premier Ladislav Adamec arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on an official visit to Iraq lasting several days. The visit comes at the invitation of Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister. Ladislav was accorded an official reception led by Taha Yasin Ramadan. Also present at the reception ceremony were Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; several ministers; and the CSSR ambassador to Baghdad. The CSSR premier's delegation is composed of Jan Stejskal, minister of financial affairs; Jan Sterba, minister of foreign trade affairs; Frantisek Ondrich, minister-chairman of People's Control Commission; and Jaromir Nehera, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

In a statement to INA, CSSR Premier Ladislav Adamec stressed his country's eagerness to expand economic relations and promote the positive results of progress in bilateral relations. He added that Iraq's great cultural heritage, genuine civilization, and great achievements in construction and progress encourage us further to promote cooperation in tourism and to sign a new agreement to stimulate tourism between the two countries. He also expressed satisfaction with the relations between the two countries as well as his country's desire to participate effectively in construction projects in various areas in Iraq.

Confers With Ramadan

JN1410214289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received CSSR Premier Ladislav Adamec this evening. During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan and Ladislav Adamec reaffirmed that bilateral relations, which have continued under difficult circumstances, will be even more exceptional and enhanced under peace and stability.

The two sides also stressed their leaderships' desire to make bilateral relations more developed and comprehensive, especially in industry, through establishing joint integrated industrial projects that will promote cooperation according to new formulas outside of traditional frameworks. The meeting was attended by Hasan Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, CSSR Finance Minister Jan Stejskal, and the Iraqi and the CSSR ambassadors in Prague and Baghdad.

Official Talks Open

JN1410215289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The first round of official Iraqi-CSSR talks began in Baghdad this evening. The Iraqi side was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister. The CSSR side was headed by CSSR Premier Ladislav Adamec.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Ladislav Adamec reviewed economic relations and areas of cooperation, as well as ways to expand them between the two countries. They also stressed the two countries' desire to expand the spheres of bilateral cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples. They also voiced their satisfaction with the current level of relations, which merit special attention and care from the two countries' leaders.

The talks also dealt with the possibility of implementing joint projects in various areas, increasing the volume of trade exchange, and expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields. The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade affairs; the under secretaries of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Iraqi ambassador to Prague; and a number of government officials. The CSSR side was composed of Jan Stejskal, minister of financial

affairs; Jan Sterba, minister of foreign trade affairs; Frantisek Ondrich, minister-chairman of People's Control Commission; the deputy foreign minister; and the CSSR ambassador to Baghdad.

Received by Saddam

JN1510120289 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 15, INA—President Saddam Husayn received this morning the Czechoslovak prime minister, Ladislav Adamec.

During the audience, means of developing bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields were discussed in addition to exchanging views on various issues of mutual concern.

The audience was attended by Member of the Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan as well as the ambassadors of Iraq and Czechoslovakia in Prague and Baghdad.

Economic Delegation Received

JN1510154089 Baghdad INA in English 1225 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 15, INA—Iraqi Minister of Industry and Military Industrialization Mr. Husayn Kamil Hasan met here today with the economic and technical delegation accompanying the Czechoslovak Prime Minister Mr. Ladislav Adamec who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, means of developing economic and industrial relations between Iraq and Czechoslovakia were discussed in addition to reviewing the process of the new projects implemented by Iraq in various industrial fields as well as the possiblility of the Czechoslovak side's participation in their implementation.

The two sides discussed the current preparations to hold the ninth session of the Iraqi-Czechoslovak Joint Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, due to be held at the end of this year.

The delegation comprises the minister of foreign trade, minister of finance, minister of the federal government and head of the Popular Observer Committee as well as a number of specialists.

The meeting was attended by the senior undersecretary of industry and military industrialisation and a number of specialists in the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi minister of trade Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with the Czechoslovak foreign trade minister and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting economic and trade cooperation between the two friendly countries and means of developing it were reviewed.

British Energy Secretary Attends Symposium

Arrives in Baghdad

JN1410123189 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 14, INA—Mr. John Wakeham, British energy secretary, arrived here today leading a delegation to attend the three-day meetings of the scientific symposium on oil, gas and petrochemicals due here today.

The symposium is organized by the Ministry of Oil in coordination with the Energy Industries Council in the United Kingdom.

The British minister was received at the airport by several officials in the Oil Ministry and the British ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With Industry Minister

JN1510125289 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 15, INA—Mr. Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, today discussed here with Mr. John Wakeham, British minister of energy, and the delegation accompanying him means of promoting industrial cooperation between Iraq and Britain.

During the meeting, the Iraqi minister reviewed to the delegation members Iraq's development process and the new projects executed by the ministry in the shade of the stage of victory and peace.

The British minister expressed his pleasure over the development witnessed by the economic and industrial relations between the two countries.

Meets With Trade Minister

JN1510123389 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 15, INA—Iraqi Minister of Trade Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with the British Minister of Energy Mr. John Wakeham, who is currently on a visit to Iraq.

The two ministers discussed bilateral relations in economic fields and means of developing them.

Holds Talks With Ramadan

JN1510171189 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received John Wakeham, British secretary of state for energy, and his delegation here today. During the meeting, they discussed economic relations between Iraq

and Britain. They also stressed the need to create new spheres of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Confers With Tariq 'Aziz

JN1510192589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received John Wakeham, British secretary of state for energy. During the meeting, they discussed relations between Iraq and the United Kingdom and ways to promote them in all areas. They also discussed a number of issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the head of the First Political Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the British ambassador to Baghdad.

Oil Minister Addresses Seminar

JN1510153289 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 15, INA—Iraq and Britain on Saturday held a joint seminar on oil, gas and petrochemical industries. The plenary session was attended by Iraq's minister of oil, Mr. 'Isam 'Abd-Al-Rahim al-Jalabi and British secretary of state for energy, Mr. John Wakeham, MP [member of Parliament].

Around 80 British experts from the British departments of trade and industry and energy, major British oil companies and around 300 Iraqi oil experts are taking part in the 3-day seminar.

Speaking at the session Mr. al-Jalabi said that Iraq will be free to choose the best technology in the world to develop its oil industry. Hence, the British companies taking part in the seminar would have to be very convincing in presenting the best of their technology if they are to contribute to the Iraqi oil industry, he said.

He added that since the first Iraqi-British seminar of this kind in 1984, the oil industry in this country has developed very rapidly and comprehensively. New areas of production and industry were successfully explored and developed.

"In 1984, we had a capacity of producing 700,000 barrels per day (BPD), now it is 4.5 million BPD, by the end of this year it will be five million. We built thousands of kilometres of oil pipelines," he said.

The minister said that Iraq has developed 10 oil-fields; some wells are small with a capacity of 10,000 BPD while the big ones have a capacity of 200,000 BPD. "There are plans to concentrate more on the heavy crude oil, and, research in this respect is going on."

As for oil refining, Iraq has now a capacity of refining 150,000 barrels a day, mostly done by the Dura refinery which produces 70,000 BPD. "There is room for a lot of work to develop these and other refineries which we are building or intend to build."

He said Iraq will become a major producer of gas (LPG). At present, it produces 4 million tons a year, part of which is exported to some countries, mostly by trucks.

Iraq is also utilizing all associated gas produced by the north oil fields, he said.

In a couple of months, Iraq is going to start, for the first time, producing gas from gas field (not associated gas), he said.

Mr. al-Jalabi said that Iraq has now 33 drilling rigs in operation which will become 38 or 40 next year.

In his address, the British secretary of state for energy said the fact that representatives of 35 leading British companies have chosen to attend this seminar is in itself of major significance. "It provides evidence of a clear consensus that the time is ripe to increase the momentum of bilateral trade and of technical cooperation to the mutual benefit of both Britain and Iraq."

This seminar is primarily placed at the service of Iraq's oil, gas and petrochemical industries.

The British companies represented here include BP, British Gas and British Steel. They have been brought together through the joint efforts of the UK Energy Industries/Trade Association, the Energy Industries Council, the Offshore Supplies of Energy Department, and Department of Trade and Industry.

During the next three days, a series of technical papers will be presented by UK companies, based on their experience of exploration and development. Iraqi participants will be presenting (?three) papers on some aspects of the oil industry.

Once the seminar is over, an associated trade mission involving some 20 UK companies will visit oil field installations in both Kirkuk and Basra, where business contacts will be made.

In an interview with the Iraqi English-Language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" the British secretary of state for energy said, "I am the first Cabinet minister to visit Iraq since the (Iraq-Iran) ceasefire. This emphasizes Britain's belief in continuing good relations with Iraq. I would also like to take this opportunity to stress the political importance which the British Government attaches to a further strengthening of British-Iraqi relations."

Mr. Wakeham added that he drew considerable encouragement from the fact that the first major energy contract to be awarded by Iraq since the ceasefire had gone to the British company Nei Parsons [name as received]. "A number of other important contracts are also under consideration."

The agreement signed only a few weeks ago between the Oil Exploration Company of Iraq and British Gas to

conduct a joint study of oilfields in northern Iraq appears to be another significant milestone along the road towards increased technical cooperation, he added.

He said Britain has developed both on and offshore oil technology, especially in the North Sea. "We believe we could be helpful for Iraq's oil industry, which is on-shore technology, because of the fact that offshore technology has developed from on-shore technology."

Information Minister Returns From Morocco

JN1210205089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim returned to Baghdad this evening after attending the 3-day meeting of the seventh session of Arab culture ministers in Morocco. [passage omitted]

Shamir Proposes Israeli Venue for Peace Talks

TA1510092489 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Oct 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the meeting between the Israeli delegation and that of the inhabitants of the territories should take place in Israel. "Who says it should be held in Cairo?" Shamir asked, adding, "Why go all the way to Cairo when both sides, Israelis and Palestinians, are here?"

Speaking to MA'ARIV last night, Shamir said: "After all, this would be a meeting to discuss only technical matters concerning the modalities of the elections. Israel would send a delegation of officials knowledgeable on the subject, rather than a delegation of politicians. This would be a preliminary stage only, and it should not be portrayed as a major international event. I do not think there is any room for the high profile the meeting is being given."

Shamir emphasized that the PLO is the one that has been trying to get the process into high gear because "it has run out of time. They have run out of breath and they must justify the horrors they have been inflicting on the Palestinians in the territories. One must bear in mind, however, that only Israel—not Egypt—would be endangering itself, and that is why we expect understanding about our caution."

Ben-Aharon Explains Proposal

TA1510114989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, says the proposed meeting between a Palestinian and an Israeli delegation will involve middle-level Israeli officials and will be of a purely technical nature. It would be aimed at drawing out the modalities for an election in the territories, not at negotiating a settlement to the conflict.

Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Ben-Aharon if the prime minister declared that the meeting must be held in Jerusalem, not Cairo, in order to eliminate the possibility of Palestinians from outside the territories taking part.

[Begin Ben-Aharon recording] Well, one can say that there is an implied message here by the prime minister that we will not agree to the participation of Palestinians who live outside of the administered territories. We want this preparatory meeting to be limited to Israeli middle-level representatives and Palestinian representatives from the territories—and only from the territories and not from the outside—for the simple reason that we want to make it crystal clear that we will not tolerate the introduction of PLO representatives in the process. By the same token, we will not agree to any scenario or any process that would have us move in the direction of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Frayj Assails Venue Plan

TA1610052989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says Prime Minister Shamir's offer for peace talks in Israel between Israelis and Palestinians is not realistic. Frayj was interviewed by reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] [Frayj] I don't believe Mr Shamir was serious when he said that, because he knows that no Palestinian would accept this suggestion.

[Berger] Why not?

[Frayj] Well, when there is peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis, then it makes no difference wherever we meet. But as long as we are going to meet in order to negotiate a peace agreement, and as long as the Israelis do not recognize that the Palestinian people have political rights and national rights and sovereign rights, then he wants us to come as defeated people with a white flag to sit in Israel and to [word indistinct] the dictates of Israel. That will not be accepted at all.

[Berger] But his point is why should it take place in Cairo, when both the Palestinians and the Israelis are already here?

[Frayj] Why did Israel accept and negotiate with Egypt in Camp David, in Baltimore in the United States, and not in Jerusalem?

[Berger] What is your view of Secretary of State Baker's proposal for a three-way meeting among Israel, Egypt, and the United States to determine the composition of a Palestinian delegation?

[Frayj] Well, when it comes to business, none of the three countries you mentioned, with my full respect to them, have the right to decide the needs of the Palestinian negotiators or telling it.

[Berger] Well, who does?

[Frayj] The PLO and the Palestinian people. [end recording]

Peres Says Likud Breaking Coalition Agreements

TA1510204689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the members of the Likud know how to blacken things and fabricate total lies. Peres claimed that the Likud incessantly conducts negotiations with the religious parties with the aim of setting up a narrow-based government, while at the same time they get up every morning and hurl baseless accusations at the Labor Party.

Mr Peres told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch that the Likud is systematically breaking all the coalition agreements. Nevertheless, the Alignment will not disband the unity government at this stage because the country's dire need for economic revival and the search for an opening for peace are more important. Peres addressed the issue of the political process and said that, as long as the U.S. expressed signs of hope that they can further the process and as long as a spark of hope remains, we must continue pursuing peace.

NRP Continues Supporting Coalition Government

TA1610054489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Leading officials in the Degel Hatora Party say the Likud has offered their party the post of minister of labor and social affairs on condition that if the coalition breaks up, Degel Hatora will stay with Likud in a narrow government. The party's spiritual leader, Rabbi Shach, has advised Degel Hatora officials not to accept the Likud offer and to turn down similar proposals from Labor until the diplomatic and political situation becomes clear.

Speaking to political reporter Sheli Yehimovitch, Likud officials denied any such offer to Degel Hatora.

Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer of the National Religious Party [NRP] says his party is not holding talks with Likud or Labor over setting up a narrow government. Hammer said the NRP supports the continued existence of the coalition government.

Shamir Seen Acting Against Own Election Plan

TA1110134689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Oct 89 p 9

[Editorial: "There Is No Arrangement Without the PLO]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state has expressed the opinion that even after the rejection of the Mubarak proposal by Israel's Inner Cabinet, "there is still a chance we may succeed with Shamir's peace plan." To illustrate his opinion, he relayed to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens a plan of his own which also refers to an encounter between Israeli and Palestinian delegations, as well as to a meeting between the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel. There is, in fact, no difference between this plan and that of Mubarak's. James Baker's move can only be explained by assuming the Israeli Government will find it more difficult to reject a U.S. plan than an Egyptian one.

The foreign minister, however, has already found it imperative to suggest that his U.S. colleague amend certain formulations. The promise that the Palestinian delegation would be allowed "to request clarifications (from Israel) and to make remarks regarding the entirety of the Israeli peace initiative" is interpreted in Jerusalem as a license given the Palestinians to avoid discussing ways of implementing the election plan, and to propose that the agenda include matters such as the nature of the interim settlement, and perhaps also—who knows?—of the permanent settlement.

This is not what Baker must have meant. Moshe Arens, however, is examining the most minute details with a magnifying glass. Moreover, he is seeking ways to involve Washington in preliminary discussions; Arens' legalistic pedantries as to formulations are a facade for Yitzhaq Shamir's desire to extricate himself from the catch in which he had fallen the moment he proposed the plan featuring elections as the central clause. Shamir does not want to give the U.S. Administration a resounding no for an answer. He would prefer to do everything to have the plan deferred as long as possible. In this context, the foreign minister acts as an instrument piling up obstacles in the form of formulation and complications in procedure. In substance, however, there is no doubt that Shamir is now taking action to foil his own plan, although he persistently maintains that it is alive and kicking.

The election plan monster has turned on its creator. But if the prime minister had erred in bringing it to Washington, he does not delude himself that it can be materialized without the PLO. And since Shamir most vehemently objects to the participation of the PLO, the only inference is that he regrets having created the monster. His adamant objection to allowing the PLO any role in the appointment of the Palestinian delegation signifies that Shamir no longer wants elections to be held. His only problem lies in how to bring about the burial of the election plan without upsetting the Americans, who had "bought" it from him.

Ironically enough, Shamir realizes more acutely than the Alignment leader that there is no partner for negotiations other than the PLO. It was for this reason that he challenged the Labor Party heads by saying: Let them finally announce to the people, the Knesset, or the government whether they believe that no progress toward peace in our region can be made without negotiations with the PLO.

Saying that, Shamir touched the Labor Party's vulnerable spot. Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, and others know that no Palestinian delegation will come into being before the PLO-Tunis leadership grants it the seal of approval. Faysal al-Husayni put it quite unequivocally: Why are Peres and Rabin trying to deceive the nation, as if there were a difference between people formally related to the PLO and those Palestinians whose "credentials need not be inspected"? The public does not wish to be duped by sophistry. The more the Alignment leaders persist in their assertions, the more the public will justifiably accuse them of insincerity.

Without the PLO, there will be no elections a la Shamir, nor will there be a political settlement as Rabin and Peres imagine it. And since there is no chance that Shamir and the Likud will soften their opposition to the PLO, the foregone conclusion is that the Alignment no

longer has a place in the present government—unless it wishes to be the Likud's partner, even at the cost of being responsible for sabotaging any effort designed to bring peace to Israel and to the region.

Shahal Says Shamir, Arens Torpedoing Initiative

TA1610053989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Minister Moshe Shahal has sharply attacked the prime minister and the foreign minister, saying they are responsible for torpedoing the political initiative no less than the braces ministers.

He said Foreign Minister Arens rejected the U.S. five-point proposal of his own volition, without receiving permission from any authorized government forum. Mr Shahal said the U.S. Administration was furious with Arens' position and, in reaction, began to bypass the Foreign Ministry and conduct contacts with the Prime Minister's Office. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that Minister Shahal was addressing Labor Party members in Haifa.

Cabinet Vote Deals U.S. Policy 'Mortal Blow'

TA1010175789 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Repercussions of the Israeli Decision"]

[Text] After 2 days of meetings, the Israeli Inner Cabinet rejected the concept of holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo. The Likud ministers voted against this concept, while the Labor ministers supported it. According to the coalition agreement, a tie means failure and rejection of the plan that is brought to a vote.

As is common knowledge, the purpose of the concept of holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting is discussion of the Egyptian 10 points and the Israeli initiative. With the rejection of the concept, Israel has in effect turned down the Egyptian points. This became clear when Likud Minister David Levi said that "the Inner Cabinet decision means that the initiative put forward by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is the only option remaining in the arena."

Labor Party leader and Israeli Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated that the Inner Cabinet decision has produced a new political situation in the region that requires the Labor Party to draw conclusions. Minister Yitzhaq Navon from the Labor Party said: "The Likud Party has wasted a real opportunity for launching the peace process," and added that Labor Party institutions will study the repercussions and recommendations. He did not hint at the possibility of dissolving the Israeli unity government.

Thus, Israel has officially rejected the Egyptian points. This causes a reversion to the starting point on the political developments represented in the deep differences between Labor and Likud over interpretation of the political initiative adopted by the Israeli Government.

While the Labor Party says that the initiative includes the principle of land for peace and the determination of the final status of the occupied Palestinian lands, it became clear from the result of yesterday's voting that the Likud adheres strongly to the clauses adopted by its Central Committee at the beginning of last July. These clauses rejected the principle of land for peace, the freezing of settlement, and allowing Jerusalem's Arab residents to participate in the proposed elections, in addition to rejecting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Failure to approve the concept of a Palestinian-Israeli meeting is not only a strong blow to Egyptian efforts, but it also constitutes a mortal blow to the wait-and-see policy adopted by President George Bush's administration.

Now, after this decision, the world will start talking anew about Shamir's upcoming visit to Washington next month and the possibility of new Israeli elections. Should the U.S. Administration persist in not declaring clear and defined positions, the possibility of breaking the deadlock that surrounds efforts to launch a peace process in the region will remain speculation.

Paper Criticizes U.S. 'Bias in Favor of Israel'

TA1110154189 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Oct 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Baker's Invitation...?"]

[Text] As controversy grows inside Israeli Government circles over the Egyptian 10 points for holding elections in the occupied territories, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced 2 days ago that within the next 2 weeks he will invite Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens to discuss the possibility of reviving the Middle East peace process.

Though the U.S. secretary of state declared a few days ago that he will do everything in his power to activate the peace process in the region, pessimism is casting its shadow over the possible results of the expected meeting, especially since the U.S. Administration is not ready to exert effective pressure on Israel's leaders. Moreover, the U.S. Administration announced beforehand that any meeting or discussion must take place within the framework of "Shamir's plan"—a plan rejected on the Palestinian and Arab level because it contains ambiguities in all its details, reinforces the occupation as a fait accompli, and refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, without which there is no value to any dialogue and no use in any meeting.

Perhaps the source of pessimism about the possible outcome of the Baker-Arens-'Abd-al-Majid meeting stems from the U.S. Administration's continued offers of

free assurances to Israel's leaders, as well as the administration's continued bias in favor of Israel, be it the offender or the wronged party. This deprives Baker and his administration of the ability to see facts as they are, consequently leading the U.S. Administration to adopt the Israeli viewpoint and then strive to market it outwardly as a peace plan, one that in reality imposes submission and capitulation on the Palestinians and the Arabs.

While awaiting the expected meeting of the U.S. secretary of state and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel in Washington within 2 weeks, we nevertheless entertain no illusions about Baker's ability to surmount the obstacles that Shamir has placed before the peace process in the region. The outcome that the peace process has achieved is a bad result of the U.S. policy of flattery and of currying favor with Israel through all the years of the dispute. It is also a natural result of the lack of pressure or even a hint of pressure on Israel's leaders to force them to submit to international will.

It should be recalled here that any meeting, discussion, or proposal, irrespective of its source or title, that ignores the role of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as these people's legitimate national rights, will be doomed to certain failure.

Labor Officials Perceive U.S. Resolve as 'Weak'

TA1310111289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 89 p 2

[Commentary by Menahem Shalev: "Labour and the U.S."]

[Text] Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin has a knack for saying out loud what his colleagues are only whispering, and for getting into political trouble for his candour.

Last time Beilin caused an uproar, it was by suggesting that Israel might have to get used to a permanent unemployment rate of 6 or 7 percent, an assessment shared by many economists.

At the beginning of this week, Beilin did it again. In Sunday's JERUSALEM POST, Beilin warned the U.S. not to mount a diplomatic initiative aimed only at shoring up the national unity government. Prime Minister Shamir demanded that he be sacked.

But Beilin, in fact, was only giving vent to sentiments expressed privately by many in Labour, including both Vice Premier Shim'on Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The Americans, they believe, have damaged the peace process by signalling, as Rabin put it last week, that they have no desire to "dirty their hands"—thus facilitating Likud complacency and obstructionism.

What's worse, from Labour's point of view, is that both the previous and present administrations have refrained from publicly putting the blame on the Likud as the main obstacle to progress in the peace process.

Many in Labour suspect that several key figures in the State Department—particularly the head of its policy and planning unit, Dennis Ross, have adopted the Likud's campaign formula: "Only the Likud can." This doctrine allegedly says that a narrow Labour government would be unable to advance the peace process both because of its inherent instability and because of the virulent opposition that the Likud would be likely to mount to any and all Labour moves.

Beilin's warning can be seen as an explicit warning to Ross and those who are thought to support his views not to make a move that is aimed at artificially resuscitating the peace process.

Rabin himself has complained in closed forums about the Americans. His scepticism about Foreign Minister Moshe Arens's suggestion in the inner cabinet last week that Secretary of State James Baker had made a diplomatic proposal derived not only from his disdain for Arens, but also from his assessment that the U.S. would not get actively embroiled in a possible no-win situation.

But by the end of the week, Rabin's perceptions had changed. The administration, he now believes, has pinpointed the Likud, and specifically Shamir and Arens, as the main obstacles to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Rabin believes that the imminent death of the peace process, brought on by last week's six-six tie in the inner cabinet, finally got the Americans moving. "It took a full-fledged crisis to get them to move their ass," he told advisers this week.

But Rabin also feels that the administration was not totally candid with him when he visited Washington last month. U.S. officials provided him with a copy of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's 10 points, which detail the role that the PLO must play in the peace process. But he says they failed to inform him that those points were a specific response to Baker's August 17 suggestion to Egypt that it convince the PLO to appoint delegates who would negotiate with Israel on elections in the territories.

Rabin's perception that American resolve is weak is shared by Peres, only more so. While the defence minister's name is only linked to the government's May initiative, Peres feels that the U.S. let him—and the peace process—down at least twice, both in the discussions of the April 1987 London Agreement and in the contacts over the 1988 Shultz initiative, with which he was strongly identified.

In both cases, Peres believes, the U.S. allowed Shamir to torpedo the peace process—and did nothing to make the prime minister pay for his sins.

Rabin and Peres were surprised and satisfied to realize, as this week progressed, that Baker was doing much more than they had expected him to. According to

Labour sources, their satisfaction increased when told that the administration had warned Shamir and Arens, through intermediaries, that they could not expect to derail their own initiative without paying a heavy price.

Peres does not believe that the administration will succeed in its current endeavour, and may not be hoping for such a success. Peres believes that he can form a narrow government, a move that would also forestall Rabin's much-heralded bid for the party leadership.

Rabin is more patient, and is willing to give the Likud another six week extension before pulling the plug on the government. Rabin considers Shamir's upcoming November 15 meeting with Bush to be crucial in determining the prime minister's ultimate position.

Rabin presumably prefers new elections to attempts to form a narrow coalition. But he and Peres agree that whatever step they choose to take, it would be best to have the protective cover of a ringing U.S. condemnation of Shamir and the Likud.

State Department Accused of 'Smear Campaign'

TA1510101189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Oct 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Menahem Shalev, Wolf Blitzer, Dan Petreanu, and Mikhal Yudelman]

[Excerpts] The Shamir-Arens camp in the Likud is upset with what is being described as the State Department's "misguided smear campaign" against Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Well-placed Likud sources said last night that the State Department's statements to both the Israeli and American press, indicating that Arens had repeatedly "misunderstood" U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, are "counterproductive" and are bolstering the hardline Likud elements led by ministers Ari'el Sharon, Yitzhaq Moda'i and David Levi.

"They don't understand what they are doing. They are cutting the political branch on which their diplomacy sits," a source commented.

Foreign Minister Arens on Friday met with Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to brief him on the details of his recent exchanges with the U.S. administration.

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein at the end of the week conveyed in writing to both Rabin and Vice Premier Peres the text of Baker's five-point proposal as well as the Likud's objections to the proposals. According to Rubinstein, Israel's main objection is that it does not have enough influence over the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue. [passage omitted]

The Likud has further expanded its contacts with the ultra-Orthodox parties in order to prevent Labour from forming a narrow government, according to sources in the Prime Minister's Office.

The sources added, however, that Prime Minister Shamir preferred to honour the coalition agreement calling for early elections if the unity government collapsed, instead of trying to form a narrow Likud government.

Environment Minister Roni Milo said yesterday that the Likud "is certain that if Labour is convinced that it cannot form a narrow government, it will not bolt the coalition. The contacts are therefore intended to sabotage Peres's campaign to gain their support."

The contacts with SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim], Agudat Yisra'el and Degel Hatora are being conducted by Ministers Moshe Nisim, Ehud Olmert, Moshe Qatzav and other Likud officials. The sources in the Prime Minister's Office noted that this was merely a stepping-up of talks with the religious "that in fact go on all the time."

Justice Minister Dan Meridor, who was reported last week also to be involved in the contacts, denied that the Likud was trying to tempt the Orthodox. He told THE JERUSALEM POST that Labour was spreading disinformation to create a public justification of its own contacts. [passage omitted]

U.S. Reportedly Seeks Delegates From HAMAS

TA1610075489 Jerusaelm THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Text] During the last few months, American diplomats have established contacts with HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and leaders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip aimed at incorporating two HAMAS representatives in the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel, reliable Israeli sources said yesterday.

The Americans believe Moslem fundamentalists should participate since they represent at least one-fifth of the population in the occupied territories, the sources said. According to the originial suggestion by the Egyptians, only PLO supporters and activists would take part in this delegation.

Poll Shows Clarifications Wanted for 10 Points

TA1310110589 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Oct 89 p 1

["Exclusive" Smith Institute public opinion poll]

[Excerpt] Israelis are of two minds about President Mubarak's initiative, and only a few would accept it in its present version. These are the findings of a nationwide public opinion poll conducted on 21-26 September among a representative sample of 1,170 adult Jewish men and women (including residents of moshavim, kibbutzim, Judaea, and Samaria).

—Question "What is your opinion of President Mubarak's 10-point plan?"

It should be accepted in principle in order to encourage peace negotiations: 17 percent.

Specific details must be clarified before a decision to accept the plan is made: 24 percent.

The plan must be rejected because it contradicts the government's peace initiative: 20 percent.

Other/no opinion: 23 percent.

The vast majority is not prepared to either accept or reject the plan in its present version, wants additional clarifications, and seeks to adapt the plan to the government's position, while quite a few say they cannot express an opinion at this point.

—The public is also of two minds about the government's election plan. The question posed was: "Does the government plan of holding elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza look right or wrong to you?"

Looks right: 30 percent.

It is in the right direction, but must be detailed further: 25 percent.

It is wrong, it is a dangerous initiative which might lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state: 22 percent.

It is wrong, because it is not conducive to the opening of peace negotiations: 13 percent.

Other/no opinion: 10 percent.

The public remains ambiguous on this issue, too, and quite a few have reservations about it. Only 30 percent agree with it, while 35 percent reject it either because they think it might lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state or because it is not conducive to the opening of peace negotiations. Only if we add those who would be willing to accept it pending further clarifications to those to whom the policy "looks right" do we get a majority accepting the government initiative, indicating that the public tends to some extent to have a positive view of the plan for elections in the territories.

—Question: "Do you agree or disagree with the way Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been handling foreign policy?"

Forty-nine percent agree with it (a similar percentage was registered in the poll we conducted in March 1989), whereas 36 percent disagree and 15 percent have no opinion. It should be noted that most Likud, National Religious Party, and right-wing voters support Shamir, while most voters of the Labor Party, Citizens Rights Movement, and MAPAM [United Workers Party] object to his policies. The absence of a national consensus on this point is very evident. [passage omitted]

Commentator Opposes PLO's Involvement in Talks

JN1310224489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 13 Oct 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] It is well-known that the idea of holding free and democratic elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip constitutes one of the main pivots on which the Israeli peace plan and all current and recent peace proposals and endeavors are based. All objective observers agree that the proposed elections idea is designed as a prelude to resolving the problems of the Palestine question, one after another, and to finding a realistic and honorable solution to the question.

If anybody wants to know Yasir 'Arafat's real position on the proposed elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, we would like to tell him that 'Arafat has articulated his real position on this issue in an interview with the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y published this week. Yasir 'Arafat told the Jordanian newspaper: These elections are a U.S. process agreed upon with Shamir. The U.S. Administration must understand that we are neither stupid nor simple-minded. It must also understand that we are too clever to be deceived. That is what 'Arafat told the Jordanian newspaper and so this is how 'Arafat views the proposed election plan, which is designed to serve, as we have just said, as a prelude to resolving the problems of the Palestine question.

Of course, 'Arafat and his aides are free to think what they like. The question that is seriously raised, however, by 'Arafat's real position on the plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip concerns whether the parties seeking to involve the 'Arafat organization in the peacemaking process will realize that they are making a mistake. It is well-known that there are various peace-loving parties and states seeking to involve the 'Arafat organization in the peacemaking process. Some of these parties and states seek to open the door wide for this organization in a bid to involve it in this process, while others seek to allow this organization to come in through the window. Then there are those who believe that there can be no solution or peace without the 'Arafat organization, despite the fact that Israel's principled stance stipulates that this organization cannot, objectively speaking, be a qualified party to any peace parley with Israel.

It goes without saying that intellectual integrity and objectivity cannot by any means allow us to ignore the objective justifications and rationale for the aforementioned principled Israeli stance. We must consider this organization's charter, its innate nature, and its black record, not to mention what is known about the lack of credibility of the organization's leaders and their natural disposition.

The fact that is becoming clearer day by day is that the hurdle of involving the 'Arafat organization in the current peace efforts has become an almost insurmountable

obstacle in the way of peace. The question that cannot be overlooked by the forces of security and peace, and which must also be pondered by the Palestinians, is the following: What is more important: immortalizing the 'Arafat organization and its leaders or finding a realistic and honorable solution to the Palestine question and achieving the desired peace?

Authorities Reject IRC Visit With MiG Pilot

TA1310114489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Israeli authorities do not intend to allow an International Red Cross [IRC] representative to meet with defecting Syrian pilot 'Adil Basim at this stage. The Syrian authorities had asked the Red Cross to try and arrange such a visit.

Israel's position is that 'Adil came here of his own free will and asked for asylum and therefore should not be regarded as a prisoner of war.

Syrian Pilot Discusses Motives for Defecting

TA1310145389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Report on news conference held by 'Adil Basim, Syrian pilot who defected to Israel on 11 October, by military correspondent Karmela Menashe "in an army camp near Tel Aviv" on 13 October—recorded]

[Text] The Syrian pilot, Muhammad 'Adil Basim, was born in 1956 in Aleppo. Today, at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] base, he fielded questions from Israeli and foreign reporters for approximately 2 hours. 'Adil Basim, a dark-haired, mustachioed Syrian fighter pilot, was excited. He spoke in a hushed voice, and responded to the questions through the services of an interpreter, who translated from Arabic into English. The answers were brief and to the point. Chain-smoking, 'Adil refused to comment on several questions.

I completed my studies and then joined the Air Force Academy. After several years of service, I decided to take the aircraft and come to Israel. I am no politician, he emphasized.

It was my decision, and I decided to make a change in my life and turn a new page. I wanted to get to a democratic and free country, where I could express my views freely. I did not let anyone in on my decision to defect to Israel. I am starting a new chapter in my life and closing the previous one. I am trying not to think about my family and would not like to go into any details about my relatives.

Do you want to stay in Israel, he was asked? I said that I wanted to live in a democratic country. Israel is a democratic country. Hence, one may infer that I want to live here.

How did you feel when you took off on your last sortie? My chief goal was to express my opinion. I am not fond of the political and nondemocratic system in Syria.

Later, the Syrian pilot related that he was on a training mission when he crossed the border. He pointed out that he had no contact with any Israeli body and that no one knew about his arrival in advance.

I knew nothing about Israel before my arrival here. The border crossing was a tough mission, as the border is dotted with missiles from all sides. I flew at an altitude of between 30 and 50 meters at a velocity of between 1,150 and 2,150 kilometers per hour. I had no idea where I was going to land, or whether I would have the right conditions to make a landing. I ventured into the unknown and had no radio contact. The thought that I might be intercepted crossed my mind as I entered Israeli airspace, but that was unimportant. I continued to fly to find a landing site.

The Israelis spotted me and followed me. My early-warning system indicated that I was being tailed. I knew that I was under surveillance.

Did you ponder why you were not shot down? A country that has self-confidence, said the Syrian pilot, cannot fear a lone aircraft. Such a country doublechecks itself very carefully before taking any move. I flew for approximately 3 or 4 minutes inside Israeli territory until I landed. It took between 15 and 20 minutes from my takeoff in Syria for me to land in Israel.

Major 'Adil recalled that the decision to defect had long been on his mind, but that he made a final decision only 3 months ago. The Syrian pilot also said that he was received warmly in Israel. I was treated gently. This is the kind of welcome I had anticipated. I have not yet been interrogated, he told reporters. I am not interested in an International Red Cross representative. There is no need for that. I have no problems, and I refuse to return to Syria.

Do you think the Syrian Air Force's performance has improved since the Lebanon war? No comment. Do the Syrians feel superior to the Israeli Air Force since receiving advanced aircraft? No, he responded. We know that Israel has aerial superiority. No member of the Syrian Air Force feels that it can defeat the Israeli Air Force. There is no feeling of superiority over Israel.

He refused to answer questions on whether a war between Israel and Syria might break out, whether he participated in the Peace for the Galilee war [Lebanon war], or whether he ever before encountered an Israeli plane in the air. The main lesson learned by the Syrians from the Lebanon war was that the Israeli Air Force is the best, and that Syria needs better aircraft with superior early-warning systems.

I would have been happy to answer all the questions, but I am still exhausted. I do not want to enter into political

issues. My decision was not political; it was merely the outcome of personal conviction, concluded Syrian pilot Major 'Adil.

Further on News Conference

TA1310151689

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 13 October carries a special news bulletin featuring a report by military correspondent 'Amos Har'el on the news conference held by Major 'Adil Basim, the Syrian pilot who defected to Israel with his MiG-23 on 11 October. In the report, Har'el describes 'Adil's rendition of his flight from Syria to Israel by saying: 'Adil said he tried to fly as quietly as possible. I therefore silenced all of the aircraft's electronic systems. After crossing the border, I could not signal my nonbelligerent intentions—say, by lowering the wheels, or by moving the wings—because I was flying too low, too fast.

According to Har'el, when 'Adil was asked about his views on Israel and his knowledge of the country, 'Adil responded: It is a free and democratic society. I see Israel as a country that proves its mettle every day, as in the launching of its missile into space, its advanced technology, its sophisticated weapons, and the innovations it introduced into U.S. aircraft.

With respect to the interrogation he has so far been subjected to, 'Adil said: I have so far only been asked about my motives; I have not yet undergone an intelligence debriefing.

Asked about a possible Israeli-Syrian peace, he said anything was possible.

Har'el adds that in accordance with instructions issued in advance, no photographs and no recordings were permitted during the course of the news conference, which ended at 1420.

Rabin Criticized Following MiG Intrusion

TA1310154789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has promised the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that an extensive and comprehensive investigation will be conducted on the penetration of the MiG. In a committee session today, some members charged that the military system was unreliable. The chairman of the committee complained that Rabin was not reporting details on the MiG's penetration. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session was expected to discuss the political issue, but naturally at its opening the participants could not ignore the burning issue of the penetration of the Syrian MiG-23. At the opening of the session, the defense minister declared that the defense establishment takes the aircraft's penetration extremely seriously. That is why, he maintained, the chief of staff rather than the commander of the Air Force appointed the commission of inquiry to probe why it was not intercepted.

Rabin refused to divulge all the details that have been gathered. I cannot present things that are not even reported to the Inner Cabinet because of the confidentiality of that information, he said, while making do with giving few details. Rabin promised to present the committee with the conclusions that the team reaches.

The chairman of the committee criticized Minister Rabin for this silence. I have no complaint about the penetration; it can happen, said Eliyahu Ben-Elisar. But how can it be that 48 hours after the incident we still have not received even an incomplete report?

The defense minister and Knesset Member [MK] Pinhas Goldstein engaged in sharp verbal clashes. Goldstein told Rabin: I hope that if malfunctions are found it will not be some female radar operator in an Air Force base that will be required to pay the price. Rabin responded: I do not understand why you are saying this. Goldstein retorted: There have been such cases before. In the Soviet Union, when the Piper landed on Red Square, those responsible took the necessary measures. Rabin replied: There is a great difference between the case of the Piper, which flew 1,000 km in Soviet airspace, and this one. Goldstein insisted: As far as I am concerned, 1,000 km in the Soviet Union equal 7 minutes in Israeli airspace. Those who are responsible must assume that responsibility and draw the necessary conclusions.

MK Hagay Merom warned against such cases in the future. Just as there are crazy Jordanian soldiers, there can be a mad Syrian pilot who will reach Israel and bomb targets without warning, said Merom. He also criticized the military system, which he claimed minimized civilian reports that a Syrian aircraft had been identified.

MK Yosi Sarid said at the session: Credibility, like air defense, is also a supreme method of defense. The Air Force's initial reactions were not credible. They created the impression that the Air Force was avoiding the issue and later whitewashing it and telling some stories.

The Committee's next session will probably be held next week and will be devoted to the commission of inquiry's conclusions.

Palestinian State on 2 Banks of Jordan Opposed

TA1310190789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he firmly objects to a Palestinian state along both banks of the Jordan River. Mr Rabin was speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee during its meeting in Tel Aviv. He claimed the recent Jordanian-Iraqi rapprochement stems from Amman's fear of

statements made by Israeli political circles. The Jordanians, said Rabin, are afraid that Israel will act forcefully to implement the idea that Jordan is the Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Novik To Head to Moscow To Prepare Peres Visit

TA1510073189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Nimrod Novik, the political adviser to Vice Premier Shim'on Peres, will arrive in Moscow on Tuesday. Novik will finalize the details of the planned visit by Peres to the Soviet Union. No final date has been set for the visit, although it is expected in the forthcoming weeks. Novik is trying to arrange a meeting between Peres and Soviet leader Gorbachev.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 15 October adds that "Nimrod Novik has hinted that Mr Peres will not leave for the USSR if he is not assured meetings at the highest level in the Kremlin. Novik, who is leaving to prepare the visit, said the hosts promised him that it would be a dignified visit. Israel would not agree to a visit by Minister Peres that did not meet this condition."]

In Jerusalem, officials from the Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry, and the Ministries of Trade and Agriculture are meeting to finalize details of cooperation projects which Peres can take to Moscow. The Voice of Israel's political affairs reporter says there is no possibility that the vice premier will meet with Palestinians while in Moscow.

Ministry Considers Measures Against UK Consul

TA1410194889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is reviewing several possible diplomatic measures to take against the British consul general in East Jerusalem for having entered the town of Bayt Sahur and Nabulus when those areas were proclaimed closed military zones. This was learned by our correspondent Victor Nahmias.

In response to a question by our correspondent, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the ministry cannot ignore the British consul's behavior.

The British consul, Ivan Cullen, toured Bayt Sahur to probe the tax collection campaign, and Nabulus to investigate the death of a youth following complaints by locals that he had been shot from close range after being wounded. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had vehemently denied those charges.

Ambassador Denies Mosad Kidnapped Jihad Member

TA1310202189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] This evening Israel's ambassador to France denied the contention made by the Shiite terrorist organization, the Islamic Jihad, in Beirut that the Mosad had kidnapped an Islamic Jihad member and is holding him captive in the Israeli Embassy building in Paris. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the report raised deep concern in the French Foreign Ministry, which fears that the Islamic Jihad's announcement could serve as a pretext to threaten the lives of Western hostages in Lebanon. At any rate, Ambassador 'Ovadya Sofer came specially to the embassy building this evening, despite the holiday, and announced from there that the report is totally unfounded.

NATO Report on Satellite's Failure Denied

TA1510115289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Oct 89 p 5

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] has denied an internal NATO intelligence report, published last week in Europe, alleging that Israel has already launched its second satellite, Ofeq-2, into space. The report notes that the launch failed and that the Israeli satellite burned and fell back to earth. Doron Suslik, head of IAI's media directorate, says that Ofeq-2 has not yet been launched and, consequently, has not yet burned out. According to Suslik, the numerous recent reports about the imminent launch of a second Israeli satellite notwithstanding, a final date has not yet been set for the launch of Ofeq-2. [passage omitted]

The HA'ARETZ correspondent points out that the report coming from Europe about the abortive launch of Ofeq-2 coincides with the Soviet report that Israel fired a missile to a distance of 1,300 km less than a month ago. [passage omitted]

Consumer Price Index Up 1.6 Percent in Sep

TA1510154489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Last month's consumer price index [CPI] increased by 1.6 percent. In housing, a large increase of 4.5 percent was registered, contributing .8 percent to the general index. Prices of fruits and vegetables rose by 2.4 percent, while clothing and footwear registered a .4-percent drop. The wholesale price index increased by .7 percent.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman notes that price increases have thus far reached an annual rate of 21 percent. Since the beginning of the year, the CPI increased by 17.1 percent. The shopping basket for an average family currently costs 2,940 shekels [per month].

As for reactions to the CPI, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres expressed satisfaction, noting that this is the 3d month running in which the wholesale price index has dropped. He believes it is now necessary to overcome bureaucracy and encourage investors to invest in the economy. On the other hand, Dov Lautman, the president of the Industrialists Association, said that the CPI proves that the market is still inflationary. He believes the Cabinet, the employers, and the Histadrut will have to make a joint effort to lower the inflation rate to a single-digit figure.

UNRWA To Break With Israeli Banks in Gaza

TA1310115389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Oct 89 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The management of UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] in Gaza has decided to end all its financial dealings with Israeli banks in the Gaza Strip at the beginning of next month and work only with the local Palestine Bank directed by Abu-'Ata al-Shawwa, cousin of the late mayor of Gaza, Rashad al-Shawwa.

HA'ARETZ has been told by the banks that UNRWA's decision is "a serious blow to the Israeli banks in the Gaza Strip," which have been experiencing a crisis prompted by the closure of many of them as a result of the intifadah.

Arab sources said UNRWA's decision is of political significance and constitutes an open act of protest against the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip. According to these sources, UNRWA workers in Gaza have been receiving their salaries through the Israeli banks, and many of UNRWA's dealings with bodies abroad have been conducted through them. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Arye Shifman, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, said last night that in his opinion the transfer of UNRWA's funds to the Palestine Bank is only a matter of convenience. According to him, all Israeli banks in the Gaza Strip closed down and moved to the Erez checkpoint, and it is hard for UNRWA workers to get there. That is why, in Shifman's opinion, UNRWA decided to transfer its financial dealings to Palestine Bank. He stressed that, in his opinion, this move does not reflect any political intentions.

Tourism Declines 12 Percent During 3d Quarter

TA1110105789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Text] Tourism fell in the third quarter, compared with the preceding three months, ending the recovery seen in the first half of the year.

Figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that the number of tourist arrivals, adjusted for seasonal factors, fell 12 percent in the July-September period, compared with the second quarter.

For the first nine months of the year, tourist arrivals were up 4 percent from the same period last year, but they were still 10 percent below the record pace set in 1987. The number of tourists arriving in the January-September period this year was 884,700, compared with 849,200 last year and 984,500 in 1987.

In September, arrivals rose 4 percent to 86,400, compared with 76,500 in the same month last year and 100,000 in September 1987. Among last month's visitors, 73,900 arrived by air, 10,100 by land and 2,400 by sea.

These figures don't include the 4,500 tourists who crossed at Tabah and the 19,400 cruise passengers who entered the country.

The number of tourists arriving by air in the third quarter this year was 260,000, up 9 percent from the year-earlier period, but down 11 percent from July-September 1987.

Public Workers Not To Campaign for Candidates

JN1510170489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister has issued a statement indicating that the provisions of Article No. 64 of Electoral Law No. 22 for the year 1986 and its amendments prohibit government employees and employees of official public institutions and local authorities from carrying out any election activities or campaigns in favor of any of the parliamentary candidates.

To ensure the implementation of the provisions of the law and secure the suitable atmosphere needed for providing an equal opportunity for all candidates to compete fairly, his excellency the prime minister asked that all employees of ministries, official departments, and public institutions, as well as the personnel of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Public Security Department, be requested not to carry out electoral campaigning or to interfere during the elections in favor of any of the candidates. He also said that employees working in the area pertaining to the parliamentary elections should not be given leave preventing them from performing their assigned tasks.

Plan Drawn Up To Promote Joint Free Zone

JN1410105089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 89 p 6

[Text] Al-'Aqabah (J.T.)—Means of promoting the activities and programmes of the joint Jordanian-Syrian free zones in the fields of industry and trade, were discussed at a meeting held in al-'Aqaba Thursday by teams representing both countries.

Syrian deputy minister of supply, Ahmad al-Abbas who addressed the meeting, announced that the board of directors of the Syrian-Jordanian Free Zones Corporation recommended a plan for attracting investors from Jordan, Syria and Arab and foreign countries to set up industries and economic projects in the free zones, run jointly by the two countries.

He said that such ventures can start now that all the infrastructure has been completed providing buildings, means of communication, and essential services like water, electricity and other utilities.

Apart from commerce and industry, three free zones could host activities related to tourism, general services and could serve as a storage ground for goods from various sources, Al-Dabbas noted.

He said that the board had informed the chambers of industry and trade in Amman and Damascus that special privileges and facilities will be granted to the first ten investors who embark on economic projects in the joint free zones.

Participants in the meeting later made a tour of the harbour area, the free zone and the al-Mudawwarah border post at the common border with Saudi Arabia.

Paper Assesses Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue

JN0810082089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Shamir's Foot-Dragging"]

[Text] It may come to pass that Shamir's foot-dragging over Egypt's 10-point initiative will come to an end and a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will finally begin in spite of rejection of the idea by Israel at this point in time. For all those who will rejoice once this much-talked-about dialogue gets officially launched, a grim reminder is in order: The American-Palestinian dialogue has been going on for almost a year and has yet to produce the desired breakthrough. And if this American-Palestinian dialogue has yet to produce anything tangible, how can one expect the projected Israeli-Palestinian dialogue to bear fruit? After all, in spite of the immediate rallying by Washington behind Israel's point of views, it is still not the direct party involved in the conflict. Accordingly, it would seem more probable than not that the sought-after Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will likewise be open-ended with no breakthrough in sight. Meanwhile much valuable time would go down the drain and the entire peace process will willy-nilly come to naught, so it seems.

All this gloom and doom could change once the outer parameters of the solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict can be agreed upon in principle before the dialogue gets started. Later on, the meetings between the two parties would develop their own momentum and create their own inertia for additional accommodations and compromises. So once the preliminary negotiations between the principal protagonists in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict get going, it will not be easy to stop them even if an instant breakthrough does not loom on the horizon for fear that a deadlock would spell catastrophes for both sides. It goes without saying that failure in such talks would leave the two sides with no option except to escalate their differences to the point of no return.

Thus, all concerned parties have a vested interest in getting the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue going, but they also have a greater interest on having such dialogue come to fruition. For the Palestinian side, the intended dialogue with their Israeli counterparts is the litmus paper which will determine which way the intifadah should proceed. For the Israeli side, such negotiations, albeit preliminary, would force them to negotiate in good faith under the glare of international opinion, both public and private. This could explain why Shamir is foot-dragging on President Husni Mubarak's plan to have the Israelis and Palestinians talking to one another instead of fighting.

'Kidnapped' Swiss Woman Reportedly Released

NC1310163489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Citing Lebanese sources, AP reported a short while ago that the female Swiss national who was kidnapped in Tripoli last Sunday was released today. The sources did not disclose the identity of the kidnappers but said that the young Swiss woman was interrogated about her activities in Lebanon.

Woman Released 'Unharmed'

LD1310160189 Berne International Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] A Swiss woman, kidnapped in Lebanon 5 days ago, has been released unharmed. The Swiss national airlines, Swissair, and diplomats in Beirut said the 31-year-old flight attendant was freed in the Lebanese capital. She was abudcted last Sunday near the northern city of Tripoli, but the Swiss Foreign Ministry has said there are no indications the kidnapping was politically motivated.

The incident was apparently unrelated to the kidnapping of two Swiss workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in southern Lebanon a week ago. The All-Swiss ICRC says there is still no trace of its workers and has renewed its appeal for their unconditional release.

PLO Warns Revolutionary Council on Kidnappings

NC1510165689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] PLO leaders in Lebanon have warned Fatah-The Revolutionary Council, which is led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], against assassinating or kidnapping Palestinians. The PLO emphasized that it will not allow terrorism to flourish in the Palestinian arena. The Palestinian organization accused the Abu- Nidal group of kidnapping two Swiss nationals in Sidon last week to harm the PLO's political initiative, the Lebanese-Palestinian alliance, and its support for the intifadah.

Further Reportage on Al-Ta'if Consultations

Birri Rejects 'Sectarian' Solution

NC1310153789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has stressed that reports from al-Ta'if reveal that the division of the pie is in full swing. In a statement to the Voice of the Mountain program "A Personality and a View," he said: Since the principles on which the meeting is based are sectarian, the Arab plan is sectarian, and the deputies are the sons of the regime, it is obvious that the only solution that can emerge is a sectarian one. Such a solution could even go so far as to praise the Constitution of 1926 and the 1943 formula.

Birri said: For the sake of man's freedom in Lebanon, we need to be saved from sectarian hegemony, and not from the hegemony of one sect only to fall under that of four or five other sects. He said: The national forces have struggled for man's dignity in Lebanon, a dignity that was abused by the 1943 formula and earlier by the sectarian formula. Since Article 95 of the Constitution led us to the 1958 war, the 1969 war, the 1973 battles, and the sedition that has been going on since 1975, where will this current sectarian formula, which is even more unambiguous and more pernicious, lead us?

Birri added: Any formula that does not specifically call for the elimination of political sectarianism is not in the interest of Lebanon or the Lebanese people. It will only result in a truce, be it short- or long-lived, and lead to a new war in Lebanon.

Birri said: What is going on in Saudi Arabia is more or less an Arab 17 May agreement [1983 Lebanese-Israeli agreement] to reestablish Maronite hegemony. The fate of this agreement will be the same as that of other agreements, and we would like to remind Arabs of what became of the Israeli 17 May agreement.

Further on Birri's Comments

NC1310183489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In his interview with Voice of the Mountain today, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said that what is being discussed in Saudi Arabia is an Arab 17 May agreement to restore Maronite hegemony. He added: We do not care about any formula that would reinstate the sectarian system, whether it comes from al-Ta'if or from somewhere else and regardless of whether it is backed by Saudi Arabia or by any other country.

Replying to a question on Michel 'Awn, Birri said: On 23 August 1988, this person raised the slogan of "either the palace or the grave," that is the presidential palace for himself and the grave for everyone else. He added: The issue is not 'Awn, rather it is political Maronism. We have repeatedly warned that criticism of political Maronism is not criticism of the Maronite sect but criticism of a party which is no less dangerous than Zionism. There is a similar party among the Shiites. Al-Ta'if is the best proof that the number of Muslims supporting political Maronism is greater than, or at least equal to, the number of Chrisitians. This highlights the issue of political Maronism. Michel 'Awn is the military expression of political Maronism. He also has a personal aim: Either he becomes president or no one else becomes president. We are not surprised with his statements.

Answering another question on the Army, Birri said: The Army is the stick that political Maronism has been using to drive its cattle from 1943 to today. Any attempt to repair the regime will result in oppression by political Maronism through the Army it controls. If they hand over the Army to the nationalists and Sami al-Khatib

becomes the commander of a unified Lebanese Army, then there will be a chance to change it because the nationalist army is now moving toward establishing an ideology for the Army and is rehabilitating and retraining it. Since this issue has not been raised thus far, we recall what John McCarthy told AL-HAYAH: These people are willing to give in on paper so that when things quiet down and the Army remains in their hands, they can move the people back to square one.

Birri said that he and Walid Junblatt share the same position on the Arab committe document. He ruled out the possibility of resorting to military means if the document is approved but also ruled out accepting this solution. He noted that the alternative is to continue the struggle until the sectarian system is eliminated. Birri referred to some hired newspapers and writers who talk about the so-called warlords and stressed that the system is the cause of destruction and not the warlords. Noting the people's concern about war, he stressed that no one believes that a nonradical solution can make this truce last and recalled past agreements that were signed but never implemented.

Birri also referred to past mistakes made by him and Junblatt but said their lessons have been learned. He added: We do not want to fight but we must be militarily prepared to defend ourselves and our principles. The military option should not be ignored. He said further: Junblatt and I do not want to resort to warfare but we express our dissatisfaction and we will not remain silent over an agreement that is hostile to the Lebanese people.

'Awn Warns Against Concessions

NC1410122789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has urged the interlocutors in al-Ta'if not to be committed to anything that may involve relinquishing the homeland's sovereignty, people's rights, or the state's higher interest. He said justification of concessions or yielding to pressure is not allowed because the people, who paid with their blood and livelihood for the survival, dignity, and future of their homeland, will not spare those who accept concessions, no matter how high ranking they might be.

He noted that it is not acceptable to take what is less harmful for fear of what is more harmful. The situation is already bad, and worse things might happen. The threats by some on the return to the language of war, he added, are no more than an old tune. Those who sing this tune would not have done so again had they been able to launch war and decide matters. In any case, 'Awn pointed out that after the liberation war, by which the people's existence and dignity were emphasized, the people will not accept anything that would return them to their previous humiliation and the manipulation of their fate. Nor will they hand over the future of their sons to the will and interests of foreigners and occupationists, he said.

Commenting on some foreign stands, the prime minister said that the strong nations, who express their regret at the insistence of the oppressed in preserving their free existence, should be sorry for their reluctance to support the small countries in liberating their territories, restoring their sovereignty, and rescuing their peoples from occupation and regional and international interests.

'Awn concluded by calling on the Lebanese people to be vigilant and to be ready to foil anything which might be imposed on them.

Al-Husayni Said 'Tidying Up' Text

NC1410094389 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 14 (AFP)—Christian leader Michel 'Awn here Saturday warned deputies not to accept concessions on the issue of Syrian troops in Lebanon as Lebanese members of parliament reportedly neared accord on a reconciliation document. General 'Awn, in a message to Lebanese MPs meeting in the Saudi resort of al-Ta'if, urged them not to accept "anything that would amount to a concession on sovereignty, the rights of the people or the country's supreme interest."

"The people will not spare those, however high-ranking they may be, who sell off its existence, its dignity, and the future of Lebanon," he warned. Gen 'Awn, who in March declared a "war of liberation" against the 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, said the deputies should not give in to pressure for an early agreement from Arab states or the international community.

The general's statement came as Christian and Moslem MPs in al-Ta'if reported that differences among deputies over the shape of political reforms in war-torn Lebanon had been overcome. Sources in the Saudi resort said outgoing parliamentary speaker Husayn al-Husayni had been charged with "tidying up" the final draft of a compromise text, following talks since September 30 under the auspices of the Arab League.

"The issue of political reforms has been settled," said a senior Christian MP, who is also a member of a 17-man select committee charged with drawing up an agreement on a future political system. But he said the agreement would not be formally announced "until agreement is also reached on the question of a Syrian withdrawal."

An MP from the Moslem camp, which supports Syria's deployment in Lebanon, said "we have reached an agreement on the basics, and the final text is being edited by the bureau of Mr Husayni."

Several other MPs from both sides confirmed that Mr al-Husayni had presented a final proposal which was accepted by all sides, during a series of meetings late Friday. The reform plan aims to give Moslems a greater role in the confession-based political system which has existed in Lebanon since 1943.

Christian MPs have said repeatedly that their formal acceptance of this document in a plenary session depended on "guarantees" of a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. The guarantees were sought from an Arab League committee, grouping Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco, which is hosting the al-Ta'if talks.

Syria Rejects Timetable

NC1510172889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] According to reports received in Beirut today, the consultations that the tripartite committee's member states have held with Syria to persuade it to change its stand on the issue of its withdrawal from Lebanon have made no progress so far. The reports add that Damascus has refused to submit any timetable in writing or set a time limit for the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon.

The same reports emphasize that the Syrian stand is obstructing the ongoing talks in al-Ta'if, particularly now that the deputies have agreed on the provisions pertaining to the general principles and reforms. The reports note that the ongoing exchanges center on ways of establishing the state's sovereignty over the whole of Lebanon, as stipulated in the second provision of the national accord document prepared by the tripartite committee. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss on Syrian Withdrawal

NC1510181189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has emphasized that all the Lebanese look forward to the day when the Lebanese state can, with its own forces, establish its authority over the whole of Lebanon. He said that the military government did wrong to decide on war to oust forces that had entered Lebanon as a result of a legitimate decision.

In a statement today, Dr al-Huss said: Now that the deputies have begun to discuss the issue of sovereignty during their meetings in al-Ta'if, we wish to clarify our stand on this subject, even if this is repetitious. We sum up our stand by saying that the Syrian Arab forces originally came to Lebanon in accordance with a decision made by the legitimate authority in 1976. This decision was coupled with a resolution adopted by the Arab summit at that time. These forces also returned to some areas which they had left, including Beirut, in accordance with a decision made by the legitimate authority in 1987. Therefore, it is only natural that these forces should withdraw from Lebanon when the legitimate Lebanese authority asks them to do so. However, such a decision cannot be made unilaterally by one party when the government is divided, but by the Council of Ministers when unified authority is restored in a single government.

For further clarification, we note the following:

1. There are those who deliberately portray the matter as a dispute between a group whose concern is to safeguard sovereignty and another group who is not concerned about this matter. This, of course, is not true. All of us are looking forward to the day when the Lebanese state can establish its authority with its own forces over the whole of Lebanon. We hope that this will be achieved as soon as possible. The Lebanese do not differ on the principle or concept of sovereignty or on commitment to it. There is also no dispute over the fact that Lebanese sovereignty is represented by the constitutional institutions in general and the government in particular. These institutions exercise sovereignty, express it, and speak on its behalf. However, the dispute is over the authority that should assume this responsibility under the existing division represented by the presence of two governments vying for authority and legitimacy. A minority says that the decision as to whether the Syrian military presence in Lebanon is legitimate or illegitimate rests with the military government alone because this minority believes that this government is the legitimate one. However, we, who are backed by more than 75 percent of the Lebanese people and territory, believe that our government is the legitimate one. We have not asked for the withdrawal of the Syrian Arab forces and we see no advantage in making such a request at present.

2. The military government made a mistake by deciding on war as a means of ousting forces that entered Lebanon on the basis of a legitimate decision. It also made a mistake by not giving precedence to reconciliation over all else—which it should have done even if it were seeking a quick departure of the Syrian Arab forces from Lebanon. National reconciliation is necessary in order to unify the government and consequently to unify decisionmaking. It is also necessary in order to reunite the Lebanese Army, which must replace the Syrian forces in controlling security in the areas from which these forces are to withdraw.

3. Even those who claim that the military government is the legitimate one, do not deny that in practice this government is a transitional one, the task of which is primarily to work for the election of a president and then to hand over authority to the first government set up under him. This being the case, the military government should avoid making any decisions that will only prolong the transitional period to God knows when and consequently prolong the existence of a divided government.

For all these reasons, we believe that the clause on the timetable for the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon as it stands in the Arab document is more than adequate. We also believe that regarding sovereignty, efforts must focus on reaching an agreement on a national working plan to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and to mobilize all resources for this purpose.

A total of eight charges in relation to the importation and possession of weapons was brought against the accused.

Lebanese Sentenced for 'Awn Assassination Attempt

NC1310111189 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1000 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The Larnaca Criminal Court, which is sitting in Nicosia for security reasons, passed various jail sentences today on the six Lebanese who arrived in Cyprus at the end of May intending to assassinate Michel 'Awn, leader of the Lebanese Christians.

Five of the accused each received several jail sentences ranging from 1 to 8 years and the sixth was sentenced to serve from 1 to 5 years. All the penalties will be concurrent and are effective from the date when the convicted persons were arrested.

Issuing the verdict, Larnaca Criminal Court President Nikolaidhis said that in deciding the penalty for the sixth man accused, the court took his psychologically affected state of health into consideration. The criminal court president also noted that, in its application of the laws and its conduct of the trial in connection with offenses committed on the territory of Cyprus, the court does not deal with politics but tries to carry out its duty. Nikolaidhis added: The possession and use of weapons is not only dangerous to society as a whole but also strikes at the existence and authority of the state.

A total of eight charges in relation to the importation and possession of weapons was brought against the accused.

Mohtashemi Ready To Order Hostages Execution

JN1610081889 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Oct 89 p 12

[Text] Is the execution of the hostages in Lebanon imminent? Very important information indicates that 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, former Iranian interior minister, secretly sent envoys with messages to his supporters in the Lebanese Hizballah Party, who hold most of the foreign hostages in Lebanon.

The information indicates that Mohtashemi asked his supporters to be on the alert and prepare to carry out new instructions that might come from him to execute the foreign hostages immediately. The reason behind Mohtashemi's instructions is not known. Experts in the internal Iranian situation, however, said that it comes within the conflict between President Rafsanjani and his ousted Interior Minister Mohtashemi. They added that Mohtashemi could have been informed of the purport of the ongoing secret contacts between Rafsanjani and Washington on the release of the foreign hostages and decided to take this step to be on the alert so that if he finds out that these contacts will succeed he would order the execution of all foreign hostages under the control of his supporters in the Hizballah. He would thus deal a dual blow to Rafsanjani and the Americans simultaneously.

OBSERVER Says 3 UK Hostages in Lebanon

NC1510081389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The British newspaper THE OBSERVER has published an article citing a source close to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The source told the Anglican Church that three UK hostages, including church envoy Terry Waite, are still alive and being held in Lebanon.

Muslim Group Claims Israel Kidnapped Member

NC1310223789 Paris AFP in English 2227 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 13 (AFP)—A Moslem fundamentalist group from the Israeli-occupied territories charged Friday that Israeli intelligence officers abducted one of its members this week in Paris.

The Islamic Jihad Forces of Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem) urged France to intervene, warning that it would take action otherwise, in an Arabic-language statement received in the Lebanese capital by Agence France-Presse.

The group, which has no known connection with the Lebanon-based Islamic Jihad responsible for abducting foreigners, said one of its members was seized by Israeli intelligence officers in a Paris street Thursday evening.

"He was taken to the Israeli Embassy and probably they plan to send him secretly back to Israel," the statement said. "We warn against the results of this irresponsible behaviour and place the full responsibility of this with the French authorities, since the abduction took place on French soil," it added.

The Islamic Jihad urged France to "intervene rapidly to verify if our statements are true and stop this cowardly" action from being pursued.

"We ask them to prove, at least once, that the slogan of the French Revolution, Liberty, Justice, and Equality, are real. Otherwise we will consider them accomplices in this treacherous plot and we will act accordingly."

The Islamic Jihad reiterated its determination to "continue the struggle and the Jihad (holy war) against the presence of Israelis on our blessed land."

The Islamic Jihad Bayt al-Maqdis has claimed responsibility for several anti-Israeli attacks, including the September 19 fire that ravaged Mount Carmel in Israel and the July 6 attack against a bus on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road that killed 14 people.

Paper Claims Israel Deploys Long-Range Missiles

NC1610103689 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Oct 89 p 4

[Text] Hasbayyah, AL-NAHAR—According to military sources in the border zone in the south, the Israeli forces recently established long-range surface-to-surface missile

bases 15 km from the Lebanese-Israeli border, south of the Menora settlement, and 20 km east of the Mediterranean coast.

The missiles have a range of over 1,000 km and can reach as far as Jordan, Syria, Turkey, and Cyprus. Israeli authorities have banned civilians and military personnel from entering the hill area, restricting entry to officers working at the base.

According to the same sources, these bases are the closest ever to the Lebanese border. No artillery shell, no matter what caliber, can penetrate the defenses erected around these missiles.

In another development, the Voice of the South, mouthpiece of the South Lebanese Army, reported that two citizens held in al-Khiyam prison for the past 4 months have been released. The citizens are 'Abbas Khalil and Ibrahim al-Hajj of the 'Aramta township in Jazzin. The radio gave no reason for their release.

10 Reportedly Injured by Israeli Fire in South

NC1310162789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border zone in the resisting south, two Israeli T-48 tanks, an M-113 troop carrier, and two vehicles belonging to the Israeli intelligence service, one of which carried a senior Israeli military official, were seen approaching the Tallusah position at 1030 today. They remained at the position for about 15 minutes. The reports add that three bulldozers then arrived at the position and began to dig up the olive groves in the area. Furthermore, 10 citizens, including 2 children between 3 and 4 years old, were injured when the Israelis opened fire.

Israeli Troops Clash With Villagers; 10 Injured

NC1310163789 Paris AFP in English 1557 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Oct 13 (AFP)—Ten Lebanese civilians were injured in clashes Friday with Israeli troops who stormed their village near here to destroy orchards, charging that anti-Israeli guerrillas used them for arms caches, the mainstream Shiite Amal Movement said.

The 1,000 residents of Ballouta [as received] in the Israeli-imposed "security zone" of southern Lebanon stoned the soldiers when they entered the village and tried to uproot the fruit trees.

The confrontation worsened as fist fights broke out between some residents and soldiers, prompting the latter to fire at the protesters, Amal said in a statement released here.

Israeli soldiers or their local allies in the South Lebanon Army have in the past surrounded Ballouta five times and arrested eight of its residents on charges of assisting anti-Israeli guerrillas.

Rockets Fired in Beirut; Two Soldiers Shot

NC1410173489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The security situation was disrupted today at 1745 on the Sodeco-Ra's al-Nab'-Primo combat line in Beirut when three rockets were fired.

In another security development, while two Lebanese Army 6th Brigade soldiers were walking home at 1730 from their position in al-Bashurah in West Beirut, a green Volvo without license plates passed them. The car's occupants, who wore military fatigues, opened fire, killing the soldiers. The bodies were transferred to the American University Hospital. The authorities declined to release the names of the two dead men.

Army Shells Druze Positions in Mountain

NC1410174689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah clique [Lebanese Army units under General Michel 'Awn] continues to violate the cease-fire. As part of their provocations and attacks, they shelled the nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh [in the mountain] with mortars at 1715 today.

Soldiers Shot; Sniper Fire in Beirut Suburb

NC1510063489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] A military source in the army command in Beirut has clarified the incident in which two soldiers were killed last night in the Riyad al-Sulh area in West Beirut. The source said that the incident occurred because of a personal dispute with some civilians. The military police have been asked to conduct an investigation and to detain the culprits.

Meanwhile, last night the al-Murayjah area in the Southern Suburb came under bursts of sniper fire from heavy-caliber machineguns. A number of flares were also fired there.

Pilot's Defection 'Act of Espionage' by Israel

JN1410120089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

An investigation has revealed that traitor Bassam al-'Adl [name as heard], who fled with a MiG-23 aircraft on 11 October 1989 while on a training sortie along the cease-fire line, misled the forward observation posts, suggesting through his movements that his aircraft had developed a technical failure when he changed route and headed toward the occupied territory to land at the Israeli airport in Megiddo. He thus sold himself and his weapon to the enemy as the culmination of an act of espionage led by Israeli intelligence, which succeeded in recruiting this agent and using him to smuggle one of our Air Force planes and hand it over to the enemy.

This traitor trampled all national sanctities known to all peoples when he betrayed his homeland and people and spied on them for the enemy, handing over the weapon used in the defense of the homeland. He betrayed the trust and honor that military service entails. Our people and army in Syria live by and take pride in our spirit of pride and greatness. This spirit makes us view such vile people with boundless contempt and disdain, while we continue our march forward toward our national aims without stopping or hesitating.

Paper Praises Role of Air Force, Air Defense

JN1510120389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] On the occasion of the annual celebrations marking Air Force and Air Defense day tomorrow, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH speaks of the national will and determination of the Air Force and the Air Defense to continue its march, which is crowned by glory and dignity. The paper says: Syria, which continues its progress in accordance with the directives of leader Al-Asad to achieve strategic balance with the Zionist enemy, has found, and still finds in its Syrian citizen and his combative morale the sharpest weapon and driving force for achieving that objective. Man is the creator of balance and victory.

Al-THAWRAH adds: Our brave eagles and the men of our Air Defense have pledged themselves to the homeland and have sacrificed their lives for the nation. In all the confrontation battles with the Zionist enemy, they have been an example of heroism and bravery, and have indeed become a source of real terror to the enemy, whose mercenaries tremble before the courageous spirit displayed by our pilots. Our pilots have confirmed, by experience, what world military observers have said: that they add rare qualities to their weapons and baffle their enemies in every confrontation.

Cuban Communist Party Official Continues Visit

Tours Dar'a, Stresses Ties

JN1410072789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has emphasized the importance of the strong Syrian-Cuban relations, whose bases were laid out by the two presidents, Hafiz al-Asad and Fidel Castro. He said during a tour of the city of Dar'a that his current visit to Syria highlights the strong cooperation between the two parties.

The head of the Cuban delegation praised the struggle, steadfastness, and great sacrifices of our country under the leadership of Hafiz al-Asad in the face of the Zionist and imperialist schemes, conspiracies, and challenges.

Received by Al-Ahmar

JN1410152289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has received the Communist Party of Cuba [CPC] delegation headed by comrade Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, member of the Central Committee of the CPC and deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Department. The meeting was attended by the Cuban ambassador to Damascus.

During the meeting, the talks centered on relations between the Ba'th Party and the CPC and ways to implement the cooperation program between the two parties. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between the two parties and countries in behalf of their joint struggle and interests. The meeting also dealt with the latest developments in the Arab world, especially the Lebanese crisis and the Palestine question.

During the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar stressed Syria's support for Arab efforts to achieve a Lebanese national accord and the required political reforms in the system in order to establish justice and equality among the fraternal Lebanese citizens and to preserve Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence. He also stressed the basic principles at stake in the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestine question. He said that an equitable peace can be achieved through recognizing the Palestinian people's just claims to self-determination, repatriation, and their own independent state on their national soil, which can be brought about by a UN-sponsored international peace conference.

Comrade al-Ahmar also stated that Israel does not want peace, but instead desires to impose a fait accompli on the Arabs by depending on U.S. support for its hostile plans against the Arab nation in order to implement its aggressive, racist, and expansionist philosophy. He

added that the two parties, as well as the two countries, share militant common denominators, which stand against imperialism, Zionism, and their aggressive goals.

For his part, Puentes Ferro stressed the suppory of his party and country for Syria and its struggle. He expressed his positive impression of the progress he had seen in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Ahmar Speaks on Lebanon, Intifadah at Rally

JN0610201289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1542 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at a speech rally in Damascus on the 16th anniversary of the 6 October 1973 war—live]

[Excerpts] O comrades, citizens, and Arab strugglers throughout our great Arab homeland: I am glad to congratulate you and myself on this dear occasion, the 16th anniversary of the immortal October war of liberation, and to convey to you the best wishes of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of our nation's march, the hero of the October war, the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the president of the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that today, and whenever the anniversary of this war of liberation falls, our Arab masses throughout our great homeland recall the heroism of the two Arab armies, the Syrian and Egyptian armies, and their joint fight that constituted a turning point in confronting the occupying Zionist enemy. These masses also realize that whenever Syria and Egypt join forces and stand in one militant trench, they achieve victory for the Arab nation; and that whenever the two countries meet in a common pan-Arab action, the elements of success for this action become firmer and its objective is achieved.

This fact, which was experienced by the two fraternal Arab peoples and embodied in its best form in the unity of 1958, cannot be harmed by the exceptional and passing circumstances, which are beyond the will of the two peoples and which temporarily remove them from their common role within the framework of the meaningful pan-Arab struggle. This fact is embodied once again in the two fraternal peoples' rejection of the attempts to liquidate the pan-Arab cause and impose capitulation on the Arabs. They are looking forward to an imminent day on which Arab unity will rejoin the two countries in a unified militant framework to defend pan-Arab security and foil the schemes aimed at weakening the Arabs, dividing them, and controlling their capabilities. [passage omitted]

O comrades and brothers: The militant age whose gates were fully opened by the October epic is continuing as long as the Zionist entity occupies the Arab land and fully commits itself to the strategy of expansion and aggression supported by the imperialist forces in the United States and the colonialist West and by the most reactionary and racist forces in the world. This absolute support is not surprising because the Zionist entity represents the nucleus of the most concentrated colonialistic, imperialist, and racist action in the world—a nucleus that was designed as a source for deploying imperialist and racist practices within the entire Arab world so that it can later become the main center for conquering militant peoples throughout the world. [passage omitted]

Dear comrades and brothers: In the framework of dealings with this reality, our party and its revolution in Syria, under the Secretary General Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, determined the features of a policy based on the need to continue the spirit of October—the spirit of militant action and victory and the need to confront all policies aimed at assassinating this spirit and uprooting it from the modern Arab age. The decision announced by Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of this nation, to confront the Israeli and Atlantic invasion of Lebanon and to support the nationalist Lebanese forces to foil the infamous 17 May agreement was in the framework of dealings with this reality. This decision signaled the beginning of a new, developed stage in the October age—a stage that soon began to bear fruit. It stirred the stagnant potentials of our Arab masses.

Hence, the heroic national Lebanese resistance was launched, and our kinfolk in the Golan Heights declared their constant confrontation of the Zionist aggression. Then the intifadah of our heroic Palestinian Arab people came to give a definite answer to all questions posed in the region and to stress that the right path to the liberation of Palestine is the path of adherence to the land and rights. It came to declare practically and in deed that any calls, attempts, or solutions outside this framework are only a waste of time and have no future or result, because their advocates have no way but to try to impose them on the Palestinian Arab people, which is impossible.

O comrades: The heroic Palestinian intifadah is the true indication of the will of the Palestinian Arab people, who reject surrender, occupation, and capitulation to the various Zionist, American, and reactionary schemes. These people daily express, through struggle, their adherence to their land and rights and commitment to continuous struggle until the aggression is eliminated, the land is liberated, and the legitimate rights are achieved.

As we stress anew Arab Syria's absolute support for the heroic intifadah, we are fully confident that attempts to contain and abort this intifadah will meet with the same fate as that of the previous schemes that collapsed in front of the steadfastness of our Palestinian Arab people—the steadfastness that is supported and backed by all the Arab masses and world liberals and strugglers. Our Palestinian people, who are resisting the occupier Zionist enemy with their bare chests, and who provide martyrs every day from among the best of their sons, will

proceed with resistance and confrontation of the enemy's oppression and tyranny until liberation and victory are achieved.

O comrades: It must be repeatedly emphasized that every event should be viewed in the framework of its relationship with the basic contradiction in our Arab homeland—the contradiction with the Zionist enemy and its schemes. In light of this, we viewed the Lebanese issue. We spared no efforts to end the civil war in this fraternal country. We succeeded in this and managed to ensure security for the Lebanese citizens and to create a positive climate for them to begin looking for a national reconciliatory solution. We always encouraged them to open the door of dialogue toward political reforms in the Lebanese system through the cancellation of political sectarianism, which is out of line with the spirit of the age. We have also encouraged the Lebanese citizens to build a democratic system that guarantees justice and equality for all Lebanese and ensures the participation of all in building the future and developing their country. Things had indeed begun to move toward this objective, but the authors of the isolationist scheme were not pleased by these positive developments; they felt their historic loss in front of the democratic changes. Therefore, they tried their best to restore the atmosphere of violence and destruction, especially since the Zionist enemy and the fascist Iraqi regime have no other concern but to confront Syria's pan-Arab policy and the aspirations of the Lebanese toward a dignified life that guarantees them justice and equality. All of them joined forces against Lebanon, the security of its sons, and its national and pan-Arab inclination. An unprecedented wave of destruction and violence erupted.

In the face of this military escalation, we supported the Lebanese nationalists in their defense of themselves and in their endeavors to stop the destruction of their country. We did our best to curb these new massacres within the continuous conspiracy against Lebanon and the Arab nation. We pushed the Lebanese parties toward dialogue to achieve national reconciliation and intensified efforts to prepare the atmosphere for the pan-Arab solution in Lebanon. This pan-Arab solution is based on equality among Lebanon's sons, maintenance of its unity, emphasis of its Arabism, and liberation of its occupied southern part from the Zionist enemy and its agents.

The role of Arab Syria under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad was basic and prominent in adopting an Arab resolution on Lebanon in the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca—a resolution that constituted the base of the action of the tripartite Arab committee and the framework of its activity toward saving Lebanon. Syria supported the efforts of the committee, and played a fundamental role in the progress it made on the security and political levels—the progress that was embodied in its latest statement of September. This progress was the preface of discussions among the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if. These discussions are aimed at approving reforms as an introduction for a national reconciliation that builds the legitimate institutions and their unity and returns Lebanon to its normal, healthy state.

It should be noted here that the Syrian Arab position of supporting the nationalist Lebanese forces in their confrontation with the isolationist scheme supported by Israel and the fascist regime in Iraq was the main factor for defeating this scheme, which was led by 'Awn and his clique. The steadfastness of Syria and the Lebanese nationalists in the face of campaigns of pressure and blackmail, and their insistence on a cease-fire and adherence to political solution as bases for saving Lebanon, has resulted in foiling the war of destruction, muscle-flexing, fleet-dispatching, and all other acts of pressure and blackmail.

If the Lebanese and all those keen on Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence, were happy with the end of the destructive war and with the recourse to political dialogue through the Chamber of Deputies, and if they follow with interest this dialogue in al-Ta'if and await its outcome carefully, then we stress our keenness on the success of the Lebanese dialogue, and, at the same time, stress that success is possible if those who have privileges abandon them, and rationally and realistically discuss the best ways for building a new system that restores Lebanon's unity, safety, pan-Arab role, and its position within the framework of its Arab affiliation; success is also possible if they exert common efforts to remove any obstacles to conciliatory solutions. [passage omitted]

Meeting Called 'Last Opportunity' To End Crisis

JN1110092889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN says: The al-Ta'if meeting is the outcome of several political and military developments. In Lebanon, the isolationists' dreams of imposing their hegemony and will on others, and their hopes of settling the situation by military force to maintain the hateful sectarian system were shattered. Moreover, the strongholds of the isolationists were also affected by the war that was ignited by 'Awn. Thus, their dreams have reached a dead end. At the same time, their masters' plans to exploit the Lebanese crisis with the aim of exhausting Syria and weakening its position in the conflict with Zionism, and consequently to peddle the Israeli solution, have also collapsed. After this bone-breaking duel, Damascus has emerged stronger and more capable of influencing developments. It has also become clear to those near and far that any solution that conflicts with Syria's security and interests will not see life in Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: Developments have proved that the isolationists now have only two options: either solution, reform, accord, ending Lebanon's crisis, and restoring peace, security, and stability to it; or falling into an

endless whirlpool of violence, destruction, and bloodshed. This time, they will not drag Lebanon with them, but they will fall alone.

Concluding, the paper says: The al-Ta'if meeting is the last opportunity to end the Lebanese crisis and to save Lebanon from the nightmare of terror, blood, and tears which it has suffered for a decade and a half. Wisdom and farsightedness necessitate giving predominence to the option of life over that of death and to the will of survival over that of annihilation.

'Awn Accused of Trying To Foil Peace Meetings

JN1510122989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In its comment the newspaper AL-BA'TH has affirmed that Lebanon's interest is stronger than 'Awn's threats. The paper says: As soon as a glimmer of hope appears, indicating that the Lebanese parliamentarian deputies are about to reach an agreement to end the anomalous state experienced by Lebanon for more than 14 years, the isolationist, obstructionist group engineers a new scheme to bring things back to zero.

AL-BA'TH adds: We are sure that the majority of the conferees in al-Ta'if realize the dangerous situation that will ensue if they fail to reach an agreement to save the homeland from Michel 'Awn and all others who tamper with the homeland and the people. Those who are plotting against Lebanon have openly declared that they are concerned only about implementing what they originally came for, even if they destroy the entire homeland and leave its people homeless with an unknown future. Before this reality, the conferees in al-Ta'if have big responsibilities; they must adopt the national stand which consolidates the unity of land and people. Subsequently, Lebanon will be free from those who sold the homeland and the people.

AL-BA'TH concludes: For our part, we reiterate what one of the Lebanese deputies said yesterday regarding 'Awn's new threats to the deputies. This deputy said, "These threats are only a continuation of the bombardment war which 'Awn began on 14 March; but he undoubtedly will fail in the second one, just as he failed in the first."

Afghanistan

Official Reports Air, Missile Attacks on Rebels

BK1510075689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, Oct 15 (AFP)—Government forces have launched widespread air raids and missile attacks in the last three days to "eliminate concentrations" of mujahidin guerrillas threatening several cities, an official said Sunday [15 October].

Government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani also repeated a government claim that Afghan rebels were planning a fresh offensive this week on the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad.

"This operation may not be limited to this city (Jalalabad) and could lead to trouble elsewhere, including Kabul," he said, adding that the regular army had taken preventive steps "in all cities," without elaborating.

Mr. Amani said the recent sustained bombings were "normal," adding that when government Armed Forces detect concentrations of mujahidin, the rebels are bombed by aircraft or Soviet-made SCUD missiles. "Our duty is to crush them (the mujahidin)," the spokesman said.

Mr. Amani said that "70 enemies have been killed or wounded in the last three days in the Province of Nangarhar," where Jalalabad is located. Jalalabad, the target of a major guerrilla offensive in the spring, is Afghanistan's third-largest city, located 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of Kabul and 80 kms (50 miles) from the Pakistani border.

Mr. Amani said that the mujahidin had mounted artillery attacks south of Kabul in Paktia Province, especially around Khowst and Gardeyz, where "40 extremists were killed or wounded." He also mentioned "sporadic" rocketting over Herat, a western city near the Iranian border.

Informed sources said that Kabul fliers had conducted several raids in the area of Paghman, a mountainous zone west of Kabul, prompting a mujahidin rocket attack on the capital.

The government army also fired Soviet-made Hurricane ground missiles with a range of about 50 kilometers (30 miles) toward Parvan Province, north of Kabul.

Air Force Bombing Kills 31

BK1510153489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 15 (AFP)—The Afghan Air Force has killed 31 people in indiscriminate napalm bombing in the northeastern province of Badakhshan, resistance sources said here Sunday.

The resistance run MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] news agency, citing a radio message from mujahidin guerrillas inside Afghanistan, said the Air Force raids were carried out last week on the Darsim District, close to the Soviet border. It said the planes have dropped an "unspecified number of napalm bombs" that killed at least 27 civilians and four mujahidin. A large number of houses were destroyed in Darsim.

Journalists in Kabul reported heavy air activity this week with planes flying repeated sorties, mostly towards the northern regions.

(An official in Kabul said Sunday that government forces had launched widespread air raids and missile attacks in the last three days to "eliminate concentrations" of mujahidin guerrillas threatening several cities.

(Official spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said the recent sustained bombings were "normal," adding that when government Armed Forces detect concentrations of mujahidin, the rebels are bombed by aircraft or Soviet-made scud missiles.)

Foreign Ministry Statement on Soviet Aid

LD1310193989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Regarding U.S. and Pakistani authorities' claims of increased Soviet military aid to the Republic of Afghanistan and the presence of Soviet advisers in Afghanistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement:

The U.S. and Pakistani authorities have unleashed an extensive propaganda campaign about the extent and nature of Soviet military aid to Afghanistan. By this they seek to justify arming the Afghan extremist groups and thus create the psychological grounds for continuing the fratricidal war in our country.

Indisputable facts show that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have earnestly and completely carried out all their commitments under the Geneva accords, and that the last man and officer of the Soviet military units have left our country. The withdrawal of Soviet military units from Afghanistan took place in the presence of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Afghan Armed Forces have sufficient combat and technical expertise and are able to use all modern weapons with competence and the necessary care. So at present there is no need for the Soviet military to be present when these weapons, including SCUD missiles, are used.

The Republic of Afghanistan is ready to pave the way for U.S. experts to inspect the installations for launching Scud missiles so that they can see for themselves the capability and combat and technical ability of the Afghan Armed Forces personnel, and to prove the baselessness of the U.S. and Pakistani authorities' accusations.

Moreover, it must be noted that the Geneva accords make no mention of the impermissibility of using foreign advisers and experts. In recent decades our country has constantly used experts and advisers from various spheres. However, at the present time, with the exception of Kabul, there are no Soviet experts or advisers in any provinces of our country. The handful who are in Kabul are engaged merely in delivery duties and in presenting information about weapons' technical characteristics. They do not take part in any organizational [words indistinct] or carry out military operations. These duties are carried out independently by the heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. So far, thousands of technical and professional cadres at various levels of the Armed Forces have completed their highly professional education inside and outside the country. This process has been continuing.

Instead of spreading such fabrications and unjustified claims, it would have been better had the U.S. and Pakistani authorities carried out their commitments arising from the conclusion and guarantees of the Geneva accords and thus remove obstacles in the way of understanding between Afghans and end the fratricidal war.

As far as Soviet aid to the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, the truth of the documents and figures presented is ignored and it is clearly stressed that such aid is being extended. For the defense of our country's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, this aid is necessary and by no means conflicts with any provisions or clause of the Geneva accords.

The Republic of Afghanistan has the sovereign right to consolidate its defense capability and combat readiness in accordance with its internal and external security needs, and to acquire the necessary weapons for repulsing aggression and foreign interference.

The Republic of Afghanistan deems it an undeniable right to seek even more modern weapons in a perfectly legal manner if aggression and foreign interference intensify. Those who want to ignore this right of ours must note that Pakistan is increasingly acquiring advanced weapons in excess of its defensive needs. At the very moment U.S. military and political advisers are working in that country. It is nothing other than a flagrant violation of the Geneva accords, particularly that on noninterference and nonintervention, that the United States and Pakistan are supplying, on an unprecedented scale, the extremist groups with lethal and advanced weapons. They are also training, arming, and recruiting mercenaries and sending them to Afghanistan. These actions conflict with all standards and accepted international conventions because the supply of arms to a sovereign and independent state in accordance with legal contracts is profoundly different from the arming of terrorist and subversive groups.

By making these claims, Pakistan and the United States in fact want to disguise their shameless interference and intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and fabricate new pretexts for continuing the war and bloodshed of which the international community categorically demands a rapid end.

The Republic of Afghanistan once again declares that the continuation of the war and tension in our country and the exacerbation of the situation in the region, are not in the interests of any of the belligerent parties. The only way to remove the present difficult situation is to be found in political negotiations and constructive dialogue to achieve a political solution. The harsh facts easily prove the this view's correctness.

U.S. Inspection of Military Zones Allowed

BK1510092189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0851 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 15 (AFP)—The Afghan Government has said it is prepared to allow U.S. military experts to inspect military zones "including SCUD (missile) launching ramps."

Washington has repeatedly charged that the sophisticated Soviet-made weapons are operated by Soviet advisers who have secretly remained in the country since the official Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan in February.

Government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani told a press conference late Saturday [14 October]: "No Soviet adviser operates either in the Afghan Army or any of its units."

Last Tuesday, THE NEW YORK TIMES quoted the U.S. special envoy to the Afghan mujahidin, Peter Tomsen, as saying that more than 300 Soviet military advisers were still in Afghanistan, where they are especially active at SCUD bases. The missiles, which have a range of 300 kilometers, are based within reach of Kabul.

Asked whether reporters would be allowed to visit the bases, Mr Amani said he would check, adding that he hoped that "in the near future" the government would be able to "organize this visit."

U.S. Officials Implicated in Upcoming Operation

LD1210193989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] A news conference was held today in Storay Palace of the Foreign Affairs Ministry with the participation of both domestic and foreign journalists regarding the military-political situation of the country and the gains of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

A BIA military correspondent reports that at the beginning of the conference Major General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, secretary to the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland, reported on the success of Armed Forces personnel in foiling attacks by Pakistani

militarists, Saudi Wahhabis, and the extremists supported by these groups in Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces, and Khowst Major District. Concerning the aggressive plans of the United States, Pakistani militarists, and leaders of the extremists, he stated:

Based on reliable information received by the responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, it seems that on 16 September, a session was held in Pakistan under the initiative and leadership of Robert Oakley, U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, and Peter Tomsen, special U.S. representative to the group of seven stationed in Peshawar. The session was attended by authoritative representatives from a number of the seven groups, such Hezb-e Eslami—Golbuddin; Jamiyat-e Eslami—Rabbani; Harakat-e Eslami—Muhammad Nabi; Hezb-e Eslami—Khalis; and Etehad-e Eslami—Sayyaf; and a number of high-ranking officers of Pakistan's army.

In that session a rapid military operation, which had been planned by a 60-man group of American experts, was approved. According to this plan, another joint attack is due to be launched against the city of Jalalabad. This attack will probably take place between 16-18 October. Around 10,000-15,000 people have been mobilized, including Saudi mercenaries, Pakistani militarists in the uniform of local militias, U.S. advisers, and armed extremists who are opposed to the Republic of Afghanistan.

It must be noted that in order to effectively fulfill this aggressive plan, the 54th Rocket Brigade [as heard] of the Pakistani Army has been receiveing supplies. Some 11 systems for firing long range missiles, and 4,300 men are being deployed in an area 2.5 km from Towr Kham. Also some 20,000 to 60,000 surface-to-surface missiles are ready to be fired at Jalalabad city before the attack.

According to this plan, the leadership of the fronts will be the responsibility of Golbuddin, Rabbani, Khalis, and Muhammad Nabi. However, the implementation and control of the operations will be carried out by U.S. experts and military advisers under the direct supervision of Robert Oakley and Peter Tomsen.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, by having advanced information of this aggressive plan, is ready to foil any type of invasion. We have full confidence that as in past, when Pakistani and the U.S. conspiracies and plans against the Republic of Afghanistan were foiled, this time also their warmongering efforts will be foiled; they will face a shameful defeat.

A number of domestic and foreign journalists asked questions on this subject and on the military-political situation of the country, which were answered by Maj Gen 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi.

Decree Restores Powers to National Assembly

LD1410170689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Decree issued by President Najibullah on powers of the Melli Shura]

[Text] Decree of the President of Afghanistan on restoration of the powers of the Melli Shura:

In consideration of positive developments in the defense of the gains of the national reconciliation policy and the consolidation of government authority, and in view of the fact that the measures taken to implement the state of emergency were on a temporary basis, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, parallel with the creation of relatively favorable conditions, has decided to take necessary actions to remove the measures taken. Therefore, under the present conditions and circumstances, it is deemed necessary that the following points should be endorsed:

The Melli Shura's powers, embodied in Paragraph 1, Article 81 of the Constitution which was entrusted to the Council of Ministers on the basis of Paragraph 1, Decree 489 of 30 February 1989, on the declaration of the state of emergency that had been entrusted to the Council of Ministers are henceforth reinvested in the Melli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan.

This decree comes into effect on the date of endorsement and will be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Mujahidin Reportedly Kill KHAD District Chief

BK1410024089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Reports received from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin killed the chief of the secret agency, KHAD, in Doshi District of Baghlan Province with his four security personnel. According to the news agency of the Afghan interim government, MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], the mujahidin killed the KHAD chief during an attack on the heavily guarded KHAD complex.

In another attack the mujahidin killed 25 troops of Kabul regime. These troops were guarding a truck carrying supplies from Jowzjan Province to Faryab.

Islamabad Notes Mujahidin Advances in Faryab

BK1410155989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured 10 posts of the Kabul regime in Queysar District of Faryab Province, killing (?61) Kabul soldiers and injuring about 80 in the operation.

Reports also say that the mujahidin made rocket attacks on (Dadadi airport) in Mazar-e Sharif in Balkh Province, killing five soldiers of the Kabul regime, including an officer. In this operation, the mujahidin also damaged three fighter planes and an ammunition depot.

According to the news agency of the Afghan interim government MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], the mujahidin also attacked a

Kabul regime convoy in (Chashajheel) area in Baghlan Province, damaging five military vehicles.

U.S.-Made Missiles Discovered in Kabul Province

LD1410175389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Today the Ministry of Internal Affairs Anti-Crime General Department discovered and seized eight U.S.-made surface-to-surface Sakr-30 missiles and two surface-to-air missiles, in the surroundings of Kabul Province.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that these missiles, which were deployed in the area surrounding (Charasyab) District by criminal elements to fire at residential sections, shoot down passenger planes, and shed the blood of our religious Muslim compatriots on the basis of state terrorism plans by the United States and Pakistan, were discovered and moved with the cooperation of the local people.

India

PRC's Wu Xueqian Continues New Delhi Visit

Sees Solution To Border Dispute

BK1310131389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, has said that a mutually acceptable solution to the Sino-Indian border dispute can be found through friendly consultations in a spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation. He was speaking at a seminar on Sino-Indian relation.

Gandhi, Wu Discuss Border Issue

BK1310161889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] India and China have reiterated their resolve to solve the border dispute and to strengthen bilateral relations. At their meeting in New Delhi today, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Chinese vice premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, expressed their optimism that on the basis of understanding after Mr Gandhi's visit to China [and] the meeting of the joint working group, the prospects of working out an overall settlement of the border question have brightened. Both the leaders agreed that efforts should be intensified in the coming year. During their meeting, lasting for about 75 minutes, the two leaders were assisted by their aides. They said India and China can help safeguard each other's interests through cooperation. The Chinese leader expressed appreciation for the hope expressed by the prime minister.

Speaking at a seminar in New Delhi today, Mr Wu said that a mutually acceptable solution to the Sino-Indian border issue can be found through friendly consultations.

Comments on Student Protests

BK1610074889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0731 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 16 (AFP)—China plans to step up "education" of its population to prevent a repeat of the pro-democracy protests which was crushed in June, visiting Vice-Premier Wu Xueqian was quoted as saying Monday.

"The biggest lesson we can draw from it (the protests) is to step up education of our young people and the ordinary people at large," he told two senior Indian journalists in an interview published here.

"Education", he said without expanding, would be the main corrective measure taken in respect of "those who were merely involved in demonstrations and hunger strikes" during the nearly two-month-long student protests.

Mr. Wu, in his interview carried by THE HINDUSTAN TIMES newspaper, also spoke about China's desire for political reforms, Cambodia and ties with India, but declined comment on developments in the Soviet Union and East Germany. The TIMES said the interview by Mr. Wu was given Friday—the second full day of his week-long trip to India—to its editor B.K. Dua and to Narasimhan Ram, associate editor of THE HINDU newspaper.

Mr. Wu said the pro-democracy campaign caused "many losses", but "the losses were not very serious as imagined by the outside world and we are fully capable of making up the losses."

He blamed the protests on "a very tiny handful of schemers who took advantage of the students' demonstration to turn it into a turmoil which later developed into rebellion."

Several hundred people reportedly died when Chinese troops broke up the mass protests in Beijing June 3-4. The protests erupted April 15 following the death of Hu Yaobang, a former leader of China's Communist Party. Mr. Wu denied that the party was divided into liberals and hardliners, dismissing it as Western speculation, but said "a small number of comrades" had not correctly handled the April-June student protests. He did not mention anyone by name, even when the interviewers asked him if he was referring to former party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, who is known to have lost out in an internal struggle as a result of the student protests.

The vice-premier said his country was not qualified to comment on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost policy, as it "precedes from the actual conditions in the Soviet Union." He also avoided giving a direct answer on the current turmoil in some East European countries and declined comment on the continuing exodus of people from East Germany to the West. But Mr. Wu said: "We do need political reform. However, it does not mean a change of the socialist path that we have

chosen (in order) to carry (out) our political restructuring. It is to make the political structure more aligned with the future economic development of the country."

On Cambodia, he demanded "a genuine, complete and final withdrawal" of (Vietnamese) troops under international supervision and the setting up in Phnom Penh of a four-party coalition headed by resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk. "This can later do the work for comprehensive elections in Cambodia under effective international supervision," he said.

China, he added, was "very much optimistic" about improving relations with India and said there were "broad prospects" for developing cooperation between the two Asian giants.

Mr. Wu said India and China would also continue talks to end their border dispute, which led to a brief war in 1962, but "it would be unrealistic to expect the problem to be solved through only one or two rounds of discussions."

China claims 90,000 square kilometers (36,000 square miles) of Indian territory while New Delhi counters that China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,200 square miles) of Indian land. Eight rounds of border talks since 1981 have failed to resolve the issue. Mr. Wu's visit follows a trip to Beijing by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in December last year, the first by an Indian premier in 34 years.

Spokesman's Statement on Talks

BK1410021289 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Oct 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Talks With China 12 October"]

[Text] The formal first round of talks between the Chinese vice premier and the external affairs minister [EAM] took place this morning and lasted for a little under 2 hours. On the Chinese side, apart from the vice premier, there were the ambassador and the deputy director of the Asian Affairs Department and some other officials from the Asian Affairs Department. On our side, there were the external affairs minister, the foreign secretary, the finance secretary and the joint secretary (External Affairs), Mr Nambiar.

The Chinese vice premier outlined their assessment of the international situation. The Chinese side expressed their belief that the general international trend was moving from confrontation to dialogue and from tension to relaxation and if the present trend continued, it would be possible to have a long period of peace.

On disarmament and regional issues, there had been ups and downs and twists and turns, but it was important that we work together for the establishment of a new international political order and a new international economic order on the basis of Pancasila [five principles of peaceful coexistence] and on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The vitality of Pancasila enunciated by our two prime ministers has now been established.

On relations with USSR, the vice premier referred to Gorbachev's visit which led to the normalisation of relations between the two countries and he noted that all-round development was taking place with border talks on the political front and economic and trade relations were also developing. Likewise, with the USA, in spite of some misunderstandings which have crept in as a result of the events of June, there was an improvement in ties and there was an expectation that these relations would improve further.

With Japan, it is the largest trading partner of China after Hong Kong. In terms of cultural contact, tourism, trade and contacts between popular organisations, Japan ranks first.

With regard to Cambodia, the vice premier welcomed the progress which has taken place after 10 years. On Afghanistan, the Chinese vice premier said a solution can be found only through consultation among all political forces. China hoped that independent, neutral and nonaligned status of Afghanistan is restored.

With South Asia, Chinese relations were based on the five principles of Pancasila. China hoped sincerely for progress in India's cooperation with the other countries of South Asia.

With India, the vice premier expressed happiness at the improvement and development of relations over the last few months. This momentum needs to be maintained and developed on the basis of the five principles. A new phase has been opened after the prime minister's visit and China hoped that good neighbourly and friendly relations will develop fast. He referred to concrete forward movement in trade ties with the visit of the Chinese minister of foreign trade, wherein it had been decided to increase the import of iron ore from India. Then, he referred to [Indian minister for steel and mines] Fotedar's visit to China where discussions had been held for developing industries. There was a good deal of uncharted territory waiting to be exploited as far as our economic relations are concerned, so also in the field of science and technology where the Chinese were optimistic about there being considerable scope for development.

On Tibet, he expressed appreciation for India's attitude on this question.

On the boundary question, the vice premier expressed satisfaction that the first meeting of the Joint Working Group had been held and hoped that we could build further on this basis.

The EAM, while greeting the vice premier, referred to him as an old friend of India who has come here three times, in 1951, 1957 and now in 1989. The EAM highlighted the fact that India's relations with China have been given considerable impetus after PM's [prime minister's] visit in December 1988. After this historic

visit, our bilateral relations have entered a new phase. In this new atmosphere, there were fresh opportunities to work together in various fields. The international climate today has itself proved the validity of the five principles jointly initiated by our two prime ministers. On our bilateral relations, EAM said that we have a rich historic background. In this year, 1989, our contacts have grown in various fields.

Referring to the visit of the Chinese foreign trade and agriculture minister, the EAM said that this visit has led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding on agriculture. Also, considerable impetus has been given to trade, joint ventures, transfer of technology and multilateral cooperation. EAM stressed the need to diversify our trade pattern. He also said that we need to increase contacts both at the party level and at other levels. On the boundary question, EAM said that the joint working group set up as a result of PM's visit had its first meeting in June. He expressed the hope that India and China would be able to initiate concrete and substantive discussions in 1990. He stressed the need to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas. He also emphasised that we have to adopt an approach which would enable us to move towards creating common ground and coming to a settlement which is fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable.

On Tibet, EAM referred to India's traditionally principled position which had been reiterated by PM when he visited China in December 1988. EAM underlined the fact that India has always respected the Dalai Lama as a spiritual and religious leader.

Leaves Delhi for Bangalore

BK1410074689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, on a week-long goodwill visit to India, left New Delhi for Bangalore this morning. He was seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Mr Wu Xueqian arrived on his official visit on Wednesday [11 October]. During his stay in New Delhi, he called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He also held talks with the union ministers, Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr M.L. Fotedar, and Mr K.R. Narayanan. The visiting dignitary is one of the four Chinese vice premiers and looks after external affairs. He had wide-ranging talks on issues of bilateral and international importance with the Indian leaders. Mr Wu Xueqian will also visit Bombay and Goa before winding up his visit.

Opposition Demands Resignations Over Bofors Deal

BK1310103689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 13 (AFP)—Opposition parties Friday announced a mass campaign to demand the government's resignation as newspapers published fresh evidence in a pay-off scandal involving Sweden's Bofors arms company. The five-party National Front said it would join with leftist and right-wing parties to launch a country-wide campaign to force the government to quit over the controversial 1.3-billion-dollar gun deal with Bofors.

A National Front spokesman said the decision was taken after the associate editor of THE HINDU newspaper, which has played a leading role in investigating the deal, accused the government of pressuring his boss to back off.

Narasimha Ram told reporters here Thursday that he had unearthed "smoking guns" in the Bofors scandal which he would give to other newspapers since his editor, G. Kasturi, was blocking their publication.

Mr. Kasturi denied Mr. Ram's charge late Thursday, while a leader of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party said the government had not put any pressure on THE HINDU, a widely respected English-language newspaper.

The INDIAN EXPRESS and the STATESMAN newspapers Friday carried THE HINDU probe, which said the bulk of the kickbacks allegedly paid by Bofors had gone to a mystery company called Moresco, whose "trail ends finally in Italy".

The Italian link, which was not elaborated, is thought to be significant as Mr. Gandhi's wife, Sonia, is Italian. The new revelation follows allegations that the premier's family is involved in India's long-running scandal.

Mr. Gandhi, 45, whose image has been severely tarnished by the seemingly endless Bofors controversy, has denied his family is linked with the deal.

THE HINDU was set to publish Wednesday the second part of a detailed Bofors investigation by Mr. Ram and Geneva correspondent Chitra Subramaniam.

In the first part on Monday, the paper published secret Swedish documents which said an Indian had been paid commission for securing the 1986 contract to supply 400 field howitzers and ammunition to the Indian Army.

The Monday disclosures dismissed repeated assertions here that no Indian middlemen were involved in the Bofors contract, New Delhi's biggest ever.

Friday's account of THE HINDU's investigation was splashed on the front pages of the anti-government INDIAN EXPRESS and statesman, backed by photocopies of half-a-dozen Bofors documents marked "secret". The reports alleged that New Delhi and Bofors had misled investigators, including an Indian parliamentary panel, on the identity of Moresco's owners.

Opposition parties and media reports have said Bofors paid up to 50 million dollars in kickbacks to secure the contract. But Mr. Ram said on Thursday that total kickbacks totalled a staggering 195 million dollars.

THE HINDU reports said Moresco "received coded payments running into millions", but that Bofors officials had passed it off as a non-existant firm.

THE HINDU investigations suggested Bofors was under pressure from New Delhi to cover up facts about Moresco, reportedly registered in Switzerland.

It added: "A careful perusal of the documents obtained by THE HINDU from sources within Bofors and outside reveals a pathetic story of cover-ups, lies and sham at the highest level, contrasting sharply with the public posture of a government working overtime to pressurize the arms company to part with information."

The National Front spokesman said the five-party group, which includes the country's main opposition Janata Dal (People's Party), was in touch with other opposition parties concerning the proposed anti-government campaign. He named the other groups as the right-wing Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party, which has a wide following in half-a-dozen states, and the two communist parties, which together hold power in two of India's 25 states.

In a separate statement, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said "truth will come out" about the Bofors scandal and "Rajiv Gandhi and his government cannot shamelessly cling to power. They will have to go."

The Bofors controversy broke in April 1987 and has been kept alive by the media here. It has repeatedly generated heated rows in Parliament and is expected to be the main issue in general elections due in December, when Mr. Gandhi's five-year term ends. More than 100 opposition MP's resigned from Parliament's lower house, the Lok Sabha, in July after an official watchdog body indicted the government in the controversy.

Defense Minister Denies 'Cover-Up'

BK1310132289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, strongly refuted in the Rajya Sabha today that there has been any cover-up in the 155-mm Howitzer gun deal. Replying to the day-long debate on the issue, the minister categorically stated that the government has not concealed anything and inquiries are still going on. He elaborated the steps taken to obtain the required information from the Swedish firm and the Swedish Government. The minister said the members are fully aware that the joint parliamentary committee was set up to investigate into the whole issue but regretted that the opposition did not participate in it. He said that the opposition cannot escape the responsibility of running away from the parliamentary committee. Referring to the former Army Chief General Sundarji's recent interviews in the press, the minister said the general has said the Howitzer gun was the best the country was buying keeping in view the security environment at that time.

Intervening in the debate, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, said that a letter is being issued to the Swiss Government asking them again to render legal assistance in identifying some secret bank accounts there. He said another letter of [words indistinct] is being sent, following new information and new revelations in the case. Mr Chidambaram said another team of officials will visit Switzerland soon to check the computerized central company registry there to verify the existence of companies, namely Pitco and Moresco. He said a letter is also being sent to the associate editor of THE HINDU, Mr N. Ram, requesting him to assist in the ongoing investigation by the government by sharing the information and documents he had with him. Mr Chidambaram also informed the house that a notice is being issued to Mr Win Chadha to answer certain queries based on new information that has come to light.

Initiating the discussion, Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy, Janata Dal, described the deal as the biggest scandal and said pressure was applied on the daily newspaper asking it not to come out with the information it had. This was contested by a ruling party member who said that the editor of the newspaper has himself denied such a pressure.

Gandhi Comments on Bofors Deal

BK1410130589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that he was deeply saddened but not worried about the defeat of the two constitutional amendment bills in the Rajya Sabha yesterday. Addressing a meeting of the Congress-I party in parliament in New Delhi today, Mr Gandhi said that by voting against the bills the opposition has demonstrated that they were not interested in ending corruption and nepotism and in improving the efficiency of delivering the fruits of developments to the poor and weaker sections of our society. The government had answered every query and clarification that the opposition had sought on the constitutional amendment bills.

Referring to the Bofors issue that had been raised during the parliament session once again, Mr Gandhi said that during the past few months everything which has been published in the press would clearly establish that there was no doubts about the quality of the Bofors gun. It was clearly established that this was the best gun available. It was also obvious that there was an attempt to mislead the people as the headlines [of the press] had nothing to do with the actual contents of the photostats which had been printed. The prime minister asserted that the government will continue its efforts and investigations to find out what has happened.

Referring to the impact on national security posed by cancellation of the contract, the prime minister said that the defense minister had established that there was a very serious threat to the country's security. Any cancellation would have resulted in the loss of substantial sum

of money, which could have been close to 1,000 crore rupees. Moreover, there would have been a gap in our security requirements for about 18 months. It had to be remembered that all this was taking place when there were tensions on our borders with both Pakistan and China.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that the Bofors gun is designed for deployment on our borders, both with Pakistan and China.

Mr Gandhi made it clear that there is nothing which involved with any member of the Congress Party.

Gandhi on Polls, Pakistani Maneuvers

BK1510034489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, says that the two Constitution amendment bills on panchayati raj [village-level administrative system] and nagapalikas [urban councils] stalled in the Rajya Sabha by the opposition will be taken to the people to determine what they want for the future strengthening of democracy in the country. By voting against the bills, the opposition has demonstrated that they are not interested in ending corruption and nepotism, and in improving the efficiency of delivering the fruits of development to the poor.

Mr Gandhi was addressing the Congress-I Party in Parliament in New Delhi yesterday. He said the government had answered every query and given clarifications that the opposition had sought on the Constitution amendment bills. The bills which the opposition had voted against reflected Mahatma Gandhi's dreams, Jawahar Lal Nehru's vision, and Indiraji's endeavors.

The prime minister said there is no move for immediate dissolution of the Lok Sabha and that general elections will be held on time.

Mr Gandhi enumerated the various achievements of his government, including the antidefection act, electoral reforms, legal measures for consumer protection, legislation against atrocities on members of scheduled castes and tribes and women, and welfare of the backward classes. He said that there has been a new surge in the process of the economic development of the country which acquired new strength on the foundations built by the policies of Panditji [Nehru] and Indiraji.

The prime minister also spoke about developments in Sri Lanka, measures taken for the improvement of India's relations with China, and excellent relations with the Soviet Union.

Referring to the exercises to be conducted by the Pakistan Army, he said that the Indian Armed Forces are prepared to meet any threat to the country's security.

12 Killed in Indore; 'Shoot-at-Sight' Orders

BK1410125389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, 12 persons were killed and 63 injured in Indore today following group clashes. An indefinite curfew has been clamped in the entire city. Authorities have also issued shoot-at-sight orders. According to police sources patrolling has been intensified in sensitive areas to maintain law and order as the situation is tense.

The chief minister, Mr Motilal Vohra, is visiting Indore this evening to take stock of the situation.

Deaths Total 17; 60 Injured

BK1510035689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Motilal Vora, has ordered a judicial inquiry into the violent incidents in Indore city yesterday. Mr Vora visited the affected areas and reviewed the situation with senior officials. The chief minister has announced ex-gratia payment of 20,000 rupees each to the families of those killed in yesterday's incidents and 10,000 rupees each to the seriously injured. Five thousand rupees each will be given to the injured.

Our Bhopal correspondent reports that 17 persons were killed and over 60 injured in the violent incidents. The situation is reported to be tense but under control. Indefinite curfew continues in the area.

Iran

Ayatollah Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1310194289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Yazdi at Tehran University on 13 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There are issues I need to briefly raise in this sermon. I will divide them into two parts: first, domestic issues, then foreign issues. Today, is 13 October. According to the late Koleyni, one of the writers of the sayings of the prophet, may God be satisfied with his deeds, and (?Mas'udi), a historian and important theologian among Sunni 'ulema, it is the blessed birthday of the prophet of Islam. According to (?well-known) Shiite theologians, the 28th is the blessed birthday of his holiness. And for that reason the coming week has been called Unity Week. [passage omitted]

Unity does not mean that the different Islamic religions should give up their religions and accept one religion; if that occurs, it should be pursued in theological circles and in centers of research. [passage omitted] The place for discussion of that is in schools, in universities, in seminaries, in Al-Azhar [Islamic university in Cairo] and

anywhere theological debates occur. However, in human society, we say that the 1 billion, or more than 1 billion, Muslims must unite when faced by enemies and when faced by those who want to do away with Islam and who oppose Islam. That is a logical and reasonable thing to say. [passage omitted]

Because we are all Muslims, why should we not be united in confronting blasphemy? Why should we not act in concert? Why should we not be a single power? Why should the East or the West make plans for us? Why should it be the case that the planner, the instigator, and the (?guardian) for the meetings and conferences which are held in various Islamic countries in various forms be from the East or the West? Why should it be that if the plans are to their advantage, they take them to fruition and if it is not in their interest, they break them up? Why else are there a thousand other plans which they have made and are making?

If our people in this country today realize those things, it is because of the divine blessing which God has bestowed upon them. And under this revolution, they have cast off all that servitude and they have freed themselves from the chains which colonialism had put on the feet of the people. They have lived independently, on their own feet, for 10 years. They run their own affairs; they make plans for themselves and solve their own problems. They do not allow anyone, be it in the East or the West, to make plans for them. Undoubtedly, they understand what is happening in this or that corner of the world.

Thus, what is meant by unity is to become united in the face of non-Muslims and the enemies of Islam. And if that state is maintained, just as it has been put into practice in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in this country, [sentence incomplete as heard] We have many Sunni brothers in this country, especially on the country's border areas. However, we live together. [passage omitted] They [Iran's Sunnis and Shiites] live together, they live under one system, they support the system together. They have shown in practice that even if something arises which is against the system, they will jointly stand against it. They helped one another in the war and brushed aside the enemy. They helped each other to foil conspiracies. If help were necessary, they helped together. It is clear, therefore, that that is possible, and this is what we are saying to the world of Islam. [passage omitted] On that same basis, we say that in the future Afghan government all Muslim groups must establish, together and alongside each other, the government of their choice. Together they must form a system that they want on the basis of their Islamic beliefs; and they must live with that system. It is natural that they will have a peaceful life with all their neighbors on the basis of international (?criteria). We hope that greater attention is given to the point that the enemies of Islam are always trying to create divisions among them and prevent them from achieving unity to attain the desired goal. God willing, they will attain the goal by maintaining unity.

By the same token, now that an international discussion has been raised, it is natural for me to refer to Lebanon as well. There, too, those tendencies toward sectarianism must be removed and, in any case, the country's Constitution must be amended on the basis of correct principles in the way that all the people want. Any kind of sectarianism is wrong from our point of view; it is against Islam, against conscience, against humanity. The people of that country must all be able to choose and especially the majorities which exist, and especially the Muslim people, cannot surrender to a system of sectarianism. Attention must be given to the question of which groups favor prolonging the current situation. Because I will refer to this matter in my Arabic sermon, I will not pursue it here.

The next issue has to do with the honorable government of our dear brother, His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the 5-year plan and the successes which, God be praised, the government has had thus far. We hope that they will have further successes as well. All the people know about the work which has begun: first, the presentation of the 5-year plan to the honorable Majlis with the changes which he himself [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] explained is one success and we hope that the Majlis also will, with speed and care, as one of its first tasks consider that plan; and that the honorable Majlis, which has always given its cooperation, will undertake the necessary cooperation in this stage, as well as that the government can do its work well. We hope that it will observe speed and care in approving the 5-year plan.

The (?facilities) which have been created with respect to foreign currency matters and matters relating to customs are noteworthy, and we hope that, step by step, many of the problems which must be solved in accordance with the circumstances of the time will be solved by his [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] capable hands and his government and with the necessary cooperation. [passage omitted]

The Judiciary has declared its cooperation with the government in all areas. It has declared its preparedness. Now I, as the one responsible, declare to those people who think that, under current circumstances, they can do certain things as before and, in brief, create problems for the government; I think that with the solidarity, coordination, and cooperation which exists, those things are no longer possible and the government and the Majlis and the Judiciary have decided, God willing, to solve problems one after the other with one each other's help. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

I would like to say a few words in connection with the remarks made by his eminence, the great leader, on the issue of unity. His eminence graciously referred to some specific points, one of which I would like to mention, which was addressed to the 'ulema, the clerics and the dignatories. When I say the leader of the revolution, the one who is the captain of this ship, the one who shoulders the responsibility of the leadership of the system,

and the one who has been given the responsibility of putting the general political policy into legislation, I mean His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. [crowd chants] When he graciously speaks of unity, one can see that his attention is focused on the point that the clerics, the orators, the writers, and the dignataries should elaborate on that issue, clarify it to the people, prepare them, and avoid any kind of debate which may create discord, instability, and despondency. However, do not misunderstand me, because in his eminence's remarks he graciously pointed out that constructive criticism is highly effective. I myself have said to some of the Majlis deputies that I consider their criticism in the Majlis a blessing. If for months I do not receive any criticism from the Majlis, or likewise no criticism of the judiciary or any of its sectors, then perhaps we would never become aware of any problems. [passage omitted]

Another point which I would like to mention in connection with his eminence's remarks and which I shall use from this platform to promulgate is addressed to the eminent rank of leadership: His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. [crowd chants] Today, God has bestowed on this country the blessing of being the axis of Islam, as well as a panorama for Muslims throughout the world. The Islamic world and the Muslims throughout the world have fixed their attention on it; they observe its activities; they listen to its speeches; they listen to its radio with difficulty—sometime even through intermediaries, translations, and acquiring various cassettes—just to learn what is going on in Iran and how this country is coping. The Muslims have pinned their hopes on this country.

Our dear and popular leader! The blessing which God has bestowed on us, as well as the guidelines which his eminence, may his dust be sanctified, recently graciously left for the Islamic world, and the remarks which his eminence left in his will and testament in connection with the Islamic world, I, from this platform, request from your eminence that greater attention be paid to the Islamic world, their problems, their wishes, and their opinions. I ask that you should graciously order the necessary cooperation be made—cooperation by organizations—because there are Muslims who are in need and are trapped by insurgent governments. Muslims are trapped where American, French, British, Western, and Eastern Governments exist and run the system, but they are more or less conscious of the realities. In countries where there is no Islamic government and (?appearance)—indeed I have seen some of them closely, specifically in Africa, mainly in black Africa—what privileges do the Muslims have? They need attention. I beseech you to render greater favors toward the Islamic world and Muslims throughout the world by following the very same policy which his eminence, may his dust be sanctified, and founder of the Islamic revolution, graciously had, and on which he laid greater stress in his last days, particularly during this unity week, God willing. [crowd chants]

There are other issues such as the observance of public decency [effat-e umomi], the issue of nonobservance of the Islamic dress code [bad-hejabi] and other issues which responsible officials are considering. We have had words with them in terms of these issues. I hereby mention that the judicial system is fully prepared to extend its cooperation so that those plans may be implemented successfully, therefore dispelling the worries of many Muslims, especially the families of martyrs.

Before concluding my sermon, I would like to say a few words in connection with the judicial branch because the leader of the revolution graciously said we should devote more time to talking to people. Personally, I believe that one should say less and do more work, except on occasions where words constitute work and are therefore a necessity. I do not have time to elaborate on the work which has already been nearly finished; instead, I will point out a few examples of our work, some of which I have already referred to, such as crimes which have been perpetrated in this country, the related statistics, and the measures taken to deal with them. One is Tehran, another is Lorestan.

In Tehran as you have read in the papers there is a 2 month gap between the occurrence of an offence, and sentencing, most of which is due to the honorable police and law and order officials. Another example is an atrocious crime which was committed in Khuzestan. Officials from the capital of the province were asked to deal with it directly. Following normal procedures, the case was eventually referred to the Supreme Court, and the public prosecutor was asked to deal with it. With the assistance of the president of the country's Supreme Judicial Council, in less than 24 hours—which according to his excellency is unprecedented—a sentence was issued, and in less than a week the sentence was implemented. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Cabinet Session

LD1510182789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] In today's Cabinet meeting, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the country's current problems and foreign affairs were discussed and reviewed. Also in this meeting, the executive sectors put forward their proposals which were discussed and some of these were passed by the Cabinet. According to the Central News Unit, in the course of today's session, the Cabinet declared 19 October [Prophet Muhammad's birthday] a holiday for government departments and institutions and also institutions and offices affiliated to the government, as well as schools.

President Postpones Scheduled News Conference

LD1510072789 Tehran IRNA in English 0618 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 15, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's scheduled press conference is postponed for Monday October 23, it was announced here Saturday. The press conference was previously scheduled for October 19.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1134 GMT on 10 October transmitted the following announcement of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's news conference:

["Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will answer questions of foreign reporters on international developments, as well as regional and local issues at a news conference to be held here Oct 19, it was announced today.

["It will be the new president's first press conference with foreign reporters after his coming to power in August.

["Foreign reporters wishing to be present at the event should refer to Iranian embassies or contact Foreign Press and Publications Department of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance here through telex number 212089 by Oct 14, the announcement added.

["While in Iran, the foreign reporters will have the opportunity to inspect a number of economic projects."]

New Policy Causes 'Chaos' in Black Market

NC1310152789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] Tehran—The black market in Tehran yesterday plunged into chaos and confusion and a top banker believes that "the unnatural" rate of the foreign currencies will move "in a direction for the betterment of the country."

The black market, which is popularly known in Iran as the "open market," was a scene of turmoil and confusion yesterday because of the government announcement that hard currency will be provided to the industrial units to fulfil their needs.

Addressing a press conference President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday said that hard currency will be provided to industrial units so that they can increase production without difficulty.

The foreign exchange business will be dealt by the Bank Tejarat (Commerical Bank) which started implementation of the government's plan from yesterday.

Addressing a press conference Bank Tejarat Managing Director and head of the Board of Directors Mohammad Ja'far Eftekhar lauded the government plan and said, "The nation was waiting for such a step for a long time and the time has come when Iranian industrial units will move fast to fulfil the needs of the nation," Eftekhar said.

"I am sure that the plan will work and there is no obstacle in it," Eftekhar said.

Eftekhar said that all necessary steps have alreadey been taken that the work should be done smoothly without hindrances by the bureaucratic machinery. He said as soon as the Central Bank of Iran clears the request of the client the payment will be made.

"For us there is no trouble, we will open L.C.s (letters of credit) as soon as the matter in the Central Bank is cleared," Eftekhar said.

In answer to a question Eftekhar said, "There is no limit on amounts. We have all that the firms and factories need."

He declined to give details but said that the country's foreign exchange position is quite good and we can honor all requets within the shortest possible time.

"Now you see the open market for foreign exchange has reached a dead end and they really do not know what to do," he said, adding that "Today (yesterday) the foreign exchange rate in the market crahsed and at one point reached 900 rials but then it went up again at between 1,000 to 950 rials."

Eftekhar said that eight branches of the Bank Tejarat will offer facilties for foreign exhange services but the facilties will soon expand and be tripled.

Every morning the rate of the foreign exchange which Eftekhar named "rival rate" will be announced according to the instructions of the Central Bank of Iran, which in turn will assess the domestic situation and international monetary trends.

For today (yesterday) rates of the U.S. dollars 1,000 rials and Deutsch mark 528.40 rials were announced.

Eftekhar did not want to go into details but said the rate may go to its lowest level, lower than the curent official prices of between 70 to 80 rials. He also declined to reveal to the press what the rate of foreign currency will be tomorrow.

"It all depends on the supply and demand and no forecast, except that the rates will go down, can be made at this stage," Eftekhar said.

He however, made it clear that these facilities are meant only for increase in the national production.

For the ordinary traveller, he said, "Right now there is no plan but in future definitely provision will be made."

Eftekhar said foreign exchange facilities will definitely bring prices of commodities down.

To sum up Eftekhar said that the new policy will provide banking services for imports of goods which now can be doen without transfer of the foreign currency. Until now the businessmen and industrialists used to buy foreign currency in the open market.

Persons who are covered under this policy may now refer to Bank Tejarat and buy their required foreign exchange according to the rate announced each day and open L.C.s on that basis.

According to an announcement of the Central Bank those who have already placed their orders or are going to place

orders for goods may approach the Commerce Ministry to get the necessary documents from the ministry.

Larijani on National Interests, Foreign Policy

NC1410194589 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Sep 89 p 1

[Editorial by Dr Javad Larijani: "National Security and Foreign Policy"]

[Excerpts] 1. An esteemed Majlis deputy from Tehran made some very important points while reviewing various aspects of our foreign policy in his pre-agenda speech last week. He said: Our foreign policy must be based on promoting our national interests and not merely making a diplomatic move. This is an extremely valuable and fundamental observation as long as we aware of what our national interests are.

2. To gauge the importance of this awareness, we will cite another part of the esteemed Tehran deputy's speech: "We can only achieve common interests with the West if we deviate from our revolutionary position... we can only achieve common interests with a country such as Saudi Arabia if that country coordinates its national interests with our interests."

Are joint "interests" the same as "joint national interests?" Is it not possible that two parties enter into a transaction with totally different motives? Do the buyer and the seller of a house have the same motives? [passage omitted]

3. Unfortunately, we have everything except strong reasoning and the strength of our convictions! The esteemed Tehran deputy criticized people who read a few foreign magazines and believe everything in them, but he himself seems to have committed the same error! What about those who do not read such magazines at all? What about those who do not even bother to think? What about those who are afraid that their ideas may not meet with approval from their "political proponents?" Apparently, all these matters have been ignored.

4. Yes, it is true that the basis of domestic and foreign policy is "national interests" and national interests stem from the following important sources:
A. Islamic Iran is the cradle of Islam and will continue to be so.
B. The cradle of Islam must have internal and external security.
C. The cradle of Islam should be expansive, populated, and progressive.

Therefore, before assessing relations with any country, we should ask ourselves: What is the purpose of these relations and how will they benefit the Islamic world? How will these relations benefit the progress and expansion of Islamic Iran? Two countries can forge relations on the basis of joint interests, but can only unite and be in accord on the basis of "joint national interests!"

Mo'ayeri Rejects Ties With Saudi Arabia

LD1510132189 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's advisor in international affairs 'Alireza Mo'ayeri has ruled out the possibility of resuming ties with Riyadh. "The situation is not favourable to have relations with the Saudi regime at present," he said.

In an interview with TEHRAN TIMES, published by Sunday's [15 October] issue of the paper, Mo'ayeri said there were "certain basic differences with the Saudi regime." He was referring to the recent developments including a propaganda offensive by the Saudi media against Iran and the execution of 16 Kuwaitis by the Riyadh government in September.

Asked about the hajj rituals and the possibility of mediation of certain members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, he said "there is no possibility for any mediation between Tehran and Riyadh." He stressed that "the time is not ripe for mediation."

Turning to Tehran-Paris ties, he said the two countries agreed to start bilateral ties in all fields. "The two sides have agreed to hold talks on reciprocal issues monthly at deputy foreign minister level."

French First Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Scheer and his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Va'ezi held a series of talks here last month in this connection. Va'ezi is to hold the next round of talks in Paris.

"We proposed to the French authorities who also agreed that the financial dispute should be solved first before taking any steps for better relations between Tehran and Paris," he said. France has already paid $630 million to Iran but $370 million plus interest are due to be paid by that country, he said.

Speaking about Iraq's hampering of Iran-Iraq peace talks and the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598, he said the Baghdad regime was creating a bullyhoo by taking advantage of the POWS issue.

Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Dr. Kharrazi said in a letter to the UN chief that the two sides could exchange all the POWS within 90 days if Iraq accepted a plan by the secretary general to this effect.

FRG Company To Extend Reconstruction Credit

LD1510171389 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—With the settlement of a financial dispute between Tehran and Bonn, West Germany's Hermes Insurance Company is to earmark a credit of up to 500 million Deutsche marks for implementation of long-term projects in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

An informed Foreign Ministry official told IRNA Sunday that a financial dispute between Iran and West Germany had been settled following a visit to Bonn by Deputy Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mahdi Navvab, at the invitation of his German counterpart.

An Iranian debt to Hermes was the subject of the financial dispute settled after the two sides agreed how it should be paid back. The Foreign Ministry official said it was decided in the course of the talks that Hermes Insurance lift the credit ceiling for Iran's short term transactions. The ceiling used to be about 20 million Deutsche marks.

The new credit, up to DM 500 million, is considered as a key financial source for the country's reconstruction projects.

Turkey and Iraq are given 300 million DM of credit each by Hermes Insurance for their long-term projects.

Egyptian Paper Cited on Planned U.S. Maneuvers

LD1410085289 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Athens, Oct. 14, IRNA—U.S. troops have started arriving in Cairo since last week to participate in joint American- Egyptian military games code-named "Radiant Star", to begin on November 5, reports an Egyptian newspaper.

The head of the U.S. Rapid Deployment force (RDF), James Cardiff, is already in Egypt to oversee the military maneuvers to last for 5 days, said the weekly paper SAWT AL-'ARAB in its latest issue.

The military exercises will be held in the Hamzah Mountain region, west of Cairo, and the scenario is to deal with an assumed assault by an enemy country which is stopped by the RDF.

For the first time giant transport planes capable of dropping parachuters and equipment direct from the U.S. to the action field and the AM-1 U.S. tanks will be deployed in the exercises, the Nasirite paper said.

SAWT AL-'ARAB is published in London after it was banned in Egypt last year.

The joint Egyptian-American command of the manoeuvres have issued very strict regulations on the movement of the American troops in Egypt. They will depart three days after the end of the exercises.

Egypt has asked the U.S. to bear all the transport costs of the American troops and equipment inside Egyptian territory to be carried out by Egyptian transport means.

Ground Forces Stage Maneuvers 14 Oct

LD1410191789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The maneuvers of the forces under the command of the 16th Imam Hasan Mojtaba—may God's peace be upon him—Corps' base, were held today under the name of allegiance to the leadership in the general (Shiman-e Gharb) region of the country.

According to IRNA, in the ground maneuvers which began with the code phrase "O Prophet of God", the participating infantry and artillery units, using light and heavy weaponry and engineering, combat, chemical, bacteriological, radiological, and defense equipment, advanced toward hypothetical targets and captured them. The aim of the maneuvers was declared to be the reinforcement of the defensive foundation, coordination in undertaking operations, organization of combat strength, and demonstration of the forces' preparedness.

Third Islamic Unity Conference Opens 15 Oct

LD1510132389 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—The 3rd Islamic Unity Conference was inaugurated here at Tehran University Sunday morning with participation of Iranian and foreign politicians and religious figures from Islamic countries.

The conference, titled "Imam Khomeyni and Islamic Unity," is held to mark "Unity Week" (12-17 Rabi ol-Awwal, Oct. 13-18, two dates celebrated by Sunnis and Shiites as the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, PBUH).

Parts of a message by the leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's marking the unity week was read to the audience in both Persian and Arabic languages to inaugurate the meeting. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami was also present at the meeting.

The first speech was delivered by head of the Islamic Propagation Organisation Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati who called on 'ulema and Muslim people to safeguard their unity.

He stressed that the enemies of Islam tried to sow discord among the believers of various Islamic sects and said "the World Arrogance is investing on schism between Sunnis and Shiites against which a serious campaign must be launched."

Ayatollah Jannati, who presided the meeting, urged the participants to investigate ways of uniting Muslims.

The conference was further addressed by the Friday prayer leader of Seoul, South Korea who also emphasized the need for unity among one billion Muslims.

Jannati, Velayati Speeches

LD1510133189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpts] We begin the hour's news reports with a report on the opening of the third Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran:

The third Islamic Unity Conference, under the title of "Imam Khomeyni and Islamic Unity," opened this morning in the Alameh 'Amini Hall of Tehran University in the presence of 540 Iranian and foreign scientific, religious, and cultural personalities; a group of Sunni and Shiite 'ulema; and representatives of Islamic groups and parties from various countries.

The first speaker at the conference was Ayatollah Jannati, representative of the supreme Islamic jurisconsult [vali-ye faqih] and the head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization. In his remarks he expressed greetings on the occasion and welcomed participating guests. He stressed the need to glorify his holiness the prophet of Islam as being the duty of all Muslims and said: This period [anniversary of the prophet's birth] is a suitable moment for us to revive the tradition of his holiness the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him and his scion.

Speaking of his holiness the prophet's services toward the liberation of human beings from ignorance and superstition and the maintenance of unity and brotherhood among Muslims, he added: The most important recommendations of the prophet of Islam were for the maintenance of unity among Muslims. And his holiness considered success for Muslims as lying solely in unity. He described Muslims as a body, all of whose parts are linked.

Jannati added: Today is the day when the Islamic 'ulema must act on their main responsibility; that is, a call to maintain unity and observe religious duties. And in view of the relevant Koranic chapter, they must strive toward Muslim solidarity. It is incumbent on us to confront the conspiracies of Islam's enemies through the maintenance of complete unity.

Jannati referred to the will of Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, and said: The imam's instruction also included the maintenance of unity, the instruction of all the prophets to the Muslims of the world. The chairman of the Islamic Unity Conference said in conclusion: In societies where Shiite and Sunni brothers live alongside each other, divisive issues must be seriously avoided and efforts must be made to preserve complete unity. We must now identify the conspiracies of enemies and find a way to solve the problems of the world's Muslims. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Velayati was another of the morning's speakers at the Islamic Unity Conference. Referring to the efforts of Islamic leaders to establish unity among Muslims, he said: Unity without awakening and solidarity, without awareness, is neither meaningful nor lasting, because throughout the history of Islam, as a result of the penetration of the ideas of outsiders and the emergence of un-Islamic thoughts among the Islamic ummah, Muslims have been subject to divisions numerous times.

Velayati referred to the views and opinions of Imam Khomeyni, may his noble dust be sanctified, who considered striving for unity to be a divine duty, and said: Today, Islam is the main and fundamental axis for establishing unity among the world's Muslims. [passage omitted]

Velayati on Khomeyni's Goal

LD1510152689 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran Oct. 15, IRNA—The late Imam Khomeyni's ideals for Muslims was to bring them together on a single platform, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today.

"The Muslim world shares one, and only one ideological and cultural background and should, therefore, come closer together as an integral whole," stressed the Iranian official at the 3rd unity conference in Tehran University.

Velayati pointed out that the Islamic Republic does not in any way differentiate between Shiites and Sunnis and that Iran's behavior with the two groups in Iran and Lebanon is a good proof of that outlook.

The conference is part of celebrations marking the auspicious birth anniversary of the Almighty's last prophet to mankind, Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], an event commemorated as "Unity Week" every year in the Islamic Republic and abroad ever since the Islamic revolution triumphed in Iran in 1979.

Another speaker at today's session was the grand mufti of Sidon (Lebanon) Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn who said the unity and solidarity of Muslims is a divine obligation to all Muslims. He said the best way for attaining unity was not just to hold meetings, "but rather to encourage adherence and loyalty to one and the same Muslim personality in the world."

The supercilious world powers, added Al-Zayn, hate to see a United Muslim world and therefore try to divide the ummah by sowing discord among them with the aid of their local agents.

The mufti of Sidon proposed that all Muslims act as recommended by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, or else their efforts will benefit solely the satanic world powers.

Further on Conference Speeches

LD1510193189 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—The third Islamic Unity Conference titled "Imam Khomeyni and Islamic Unity"

continued its work at Tehran University today attended by some 500 Muslim guests from Iran and abroad.

"Imam Khomeyni's movement gave a global dimension to the ummah's unity shaping it as a key factor to the struggles against global arrogance," Majlis Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas 'Ali Amid Zanjani told the conference.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran the enemies of Islam put away "the guise of hypocricy" and ganged up against Islam and Muslims, he said.

The conference is part of Unity Week celebrations marking the auspicious birth anniversary of the last messenger sent by the Almighty, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Mawlawi 'Abdollah Movahhedi, a Sunni theologian from the northeastern Khorasan Province was another speaker who stressed Muslims' vigilance against enemy conspiracies.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Mohammad Baqir Hakim referred to the vital role of Imam Khomeyni in fostering unity among the Islamic ummah, and elaborated on the dimensions of the unification process set in motion by the founder of the first ever Islamic Republic.

Tehran University lecturer Ja'far Shahidi as another speaker of Sunday's session, who described the Islamic revolution as a glaring example of unity in the contemporary Islamic world.

A message from the eight party Afghan coalition was also read to the session, calling for the struggle against global oppression, and continuation of the mujahidin's jihad for an Islamic Afghanistan.

The two-day conference started here Sunday morning.

Karrubi Stresses Unity

LD1510133489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] In a speech during today's Majlis open session, Majlis Speaker Karrubi stressed: If there is unity in the Islamic world based on Islamic fundamentals, the Zionists could never oppress Muslims in Islamic lands; otherwise, Muslims in various parts of the world would not be so meek in establishing a strong haven.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report, Karrubi, who was speaking on the occasion of Unity Week, said: With evil motives, the enemies of Islam and the Muslims have tried to create rifts among Muslims in the past. They have pursued their political goals by creating sectarian and tribal divisions. He referred to the unity which has evolved among Muslims, thanks to the victory of the Islamic revolution and the decisive leadership of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni. He said: This movement and this divine song of unity, which was sung by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, created a movement in the world. While advancing Islam's lofty goals, it has brought together and united both Shiite and Sunni brothers against the conspiracies hatched by the enemies of Islam. A shining example of this unity is the gathering of Lebanon's Muslim 'ulema.

He added: While the Islamic Republic of Iran is the standard-bearer of unity and brotherhood in the Islamic world, certain Islamic governments, such as the Saudi regime, have become the standard-bearers of dissent and division among Muslims. He expressed the hope that, thanks to the alertness of the Islamic 'ulema and the awareness of Islamic scholars, unity among Mulsims would grow each day, and that by utilizing their resources, 1 billion world Muslims would throw the enemies out of Islamic lands. [passage omitted]

Paper Praises Khamene'i Choice of Council Members

NC1310154489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Oct 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Leader Chooses Well Forming Expediency Discernment Council"]

[Text] Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, based on Article 112 of the constitution that gives him the right to form the Expediency Council named the members of this Council. The function of the Expediency Council is to resolve issues which the Majlis and Guardians Council fail to reach agreement on and also to consult the leader on issues that have been given to them.

The new Council has several new characteristics. Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, who during the first council was given the permission by Imam Khomeyni to participate in the meetings of the Council and report on the proceedings but did not have a vote, is now chosen by the Leader to serve in the Council for three consecutive years. In selecting the 18-member Council, Ayatollah Khamene'i has taken advantage of the two mainstream political and economic views in the country and combined them in this Council.

Based on the constitution of the Islamic Republic, the Leader has the responsibility of setting the strategy of the Islamic system after consulting with this Council. So, the Council plays a vital role on very important and sensitive matters that effect the future of the country. On such occasions it is best that the Leader have an expanded view of the situation and not one that favors any particular idea or strategy. This is a political tradition set by the late Imam Khomeyni.

Utilizing different points of view on political and economic issues in the centers that are set for such debates is certainly beneficial to the health of the Islamic system and is a positive attitude. Two prime examples of these centers are the Majlis and the Expediency Council. This attitude, however, could halt the implementation of certain decisions if used within the executive branch of judicial system of the country.

The prime responsibility of the Expediency Council is to settle issues that the Majlis and Guardians Council cannot agree on. Bills about the distribution of land and foreign trade are two such cases that the Majlis and Guardians Council have different points of view about and an issue such as this can be put to discussion in the Expediency Council.

The presence of well known political figures of the country, even though from the two main political streams of the country, is the other important characteristic of the newly formed Council. Mahdavi-Kani and Movahhedi-Kermani who are the secretary and central committee member of the Association of Combatant 'Ulema, respectively, have special views when it comes to the economic plans for the country. They favor the reduction of the government role in the economy and decentralization of the economy in general. Mehdi Karrubi and Musavi Kho'iniha who are the secretary and central committee member of the Assembly of Combatant Ulema, respectively, favor a bigger role for the government in the economy and centralization of the economy.

A combination of different points of view gives an opportunity for utilizing all the political expertise available to the system and the selection of the Council by the Leader, therefore, was a wise and calculated choice.

Editorial Views Moves Toward Economic Relaxation

NC1310155489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Moving Toward a More Relaxed Economy"]

[Text] Two positive and courageous actions by the government of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in recent days demonstrated once again determination on the part of the government to let leave [as published] alone and run away from an economy based on the ration system towards a more relaxed and healthier one. As announced yesterday Central Bank of Iran has decided to offer new banking services, including providing the foreign currency needed to importers of goods and commodities without restrictions on the transfer of currency. At the same time a policy based on the red and green channel checks is being implemented throughout the customs stations of the country. The new customs policy allows each passenger carrying goods to be exempted up to a value of 50,000 rials on the customs charges, and can therefore go through the green channel. If a passenger has goods valued at more than 50,000 rials then he or she will have to go through the red channel and the goods in excess of this value will be dutiable.

The Central Bank decision means that the importers of requisite items can obtain their required currency from the Bank Tejarat at the unofficial, or open market rate. Those entitled to these facilities will be government organizations or those affiliated in one way or another with government. Nonetheless this measure is bound to reduce the inflation rate. If this policy had been extended to all sectors and individuals then perhaps reduction in inflation would have proceeded at a far faster and more efficient pace.

History has shown that the establishment of large centers, with huge bureaucratic processes, is not the answer to the ever-growing problem of inflation and high prices. Experts in this field believe that in order to control the cost of living in Iran three simultaneous steps must be taken: increase in production, optimization of the distribution process, and creation of the right psychological climate conducive to these.

In the area of production, technological improvements along with a greater flow in investments within the private sector and establishment of new centers to produce and manufacture light industrial goods can help rejuvenate the economy.

Altering the distribution process in order to limit the role of the government can be a further step in contribution to the ultimate goal of reviving the economy. The third step, that of creating the necessary psychological climate will have to be effected through a prudent channeling of all available talents and potentials to meet the requirements of a stepped up economy in regard to investments and production. To create such a psychological climate will required an atmosphere of trust and security and people made to feel that any investments they make will be safe and secure.

It will be the responsibility of the leaders of the country to provide the required atmosphere and convince the nation as a whole of the wisdom of their intentions through dialogue at all levels with the people. News of what appear to be the first moves towards a more relaxed economy are promising and are in a sense a ripening towards the promises of the revolution to improve the living standards of the people of the country among other things.

Editorial Urges 'Caution' Over 5-Year Plan

NC1310155689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Hope Tempered With Caution"]

[Text] Iran's first post-revolutionary 5-Year Plan gets into gear when the plan now worked out in its details goes to the Majlis for approval next week. The plan of which the details were disclosed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a news conference on Sunday was originally prepared by the former Musavi Cabinet and is now modified to bring the expenditure envisaged from $96 billion to $112 billion.

The plan which places emphasis on production, non-oil exports, the tourist industry, expansion of oil and gas resources, the petrochemical industries, mines and the cement, rubber and paper industries among others, is all well and good and calls for a great deal of sound work in all these areas by those concerned directly in them.

However, a certain degree of caution is advisable with regard to what can be expected from the plan as it moves along in is various stages. We should not have too high expectations that cannot in the end be realized fully.

For one thing, and this will count above everything else really, is the need to see that good management rides at the helm during its implementation at all stages. To have it snarled up by bad management, or mismanagement, will be sad indeed. It can happen to any plan that in theory may be all so fine but delivers nothing or less than expected up in the end and worse can compound the deficiencies already present.

All the talent in the world is available to the country and progress in past years has been no mean matter when we consider the fact of a long drawn 8-year war among other things even before the nation could get itself organized and down to work after the success of the Islamic Revolution. So what really has happened is that the talent present here has not been properly mustered and encouraged to give of its best. The government should address itself to the quest for young managers of a high caliber in addition to experts in every field where economic activity is involved.

Next, a factor that has to be carefully looked into is the question of the assumption in the plan that oil prices will stay stable and steady at anticipated levels. The plan provides for 90 percent of its expenditure from revenues derived from the sale of oil. Oil prices, as we all very well know, has in recent years has [as published] been weighted by political rather than economic considerations. What will be necessary for the government to do is to see to it that political decisions which reflect on the economic aspects of oil and others too, should be handled astutely and diplomatically. What is economically expedient may not be so politically, but the reverse too of this axiom is true. Both should be looked at together. Dialogue and fine diplomacy, with the Persian Gulf countries in particular, will have to be uppermost in order to work towards keeping the prices at level without dropping. The ideal should be an aim at bringing oil prices up to the $30 per barrel level in the early 90s.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has certainly to be congratulated on pushing through the Five-Year Plan with total Cabinet consensus, but he should exercise wise discretion and take energetic measures to ensure that the plan becomes an eventual success leading to the prosperity and well-being of the masses of the nation. He should also bear in mind the fact that we are as yet in a no-war no-peace situation in our dealings with our one-time enemy Iraq.

Latest 'Power Struggle' Within Regime Analyzed

LD1510201989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] This week's analysis concerns two issues. The first views the latest reports of power struggle within the regime. The second concerns a look at the latest economic measures the regime is trying to implement.

First, there was the issue of the 110 Majlis deputies who protested to Yazdi over his meeting with Roger Cooper's relatives, to which he responded by claiming that the issue was out of his domain of responsibility. Then there was the issue of Ahmad Khomeyni, who in his meeting with the officials from the relief committee, voiced his discontent with Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policies, calling on his supporters to take his side. Furthermore, to put Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a straitjacket, the hardliners, in a letter signed by 146 deputies, asked him to hold a grand ceremony on 4 November which the regime had previously named the Day of Combat Against Global Arrogance.

In addition, they exacerbated their anti-Hashemi-Rafsanjani campaign through disagreeing with the moderate faction over governmental punishments for hoarders of onions and potatoes, supporting the enforcement of capital punishment for the hoarders. The battle intensified when Hashemi-Rafsanjani transferred the right of censorship of the media from the Majlis to his cabinet, thereby depriving them of a powerful weapon.

Meanwhile, even Khamene'i has begun to indirectly criticize Hashemi-Rafsanjani. An example of this is was his recent attack on the banks' being responsible for inflation and the existing plight of the economy, while Hashemi-Rafsanjani's technocratic cabinet is trying to encourage the financial and economic foundations. An article in the daily RESALAT on the danger of the alienation of the clerics was also targeted against Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Pakistan

5 Injured in Clashes in Karachi; Curfew Imposed

BK1510014889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] It has been officially stated in Karachi that some troublemakers fired at a procession organized to mark the birthday of the holy Prophet Muhammad, may the blessing and mercy of God be upon him. This led to an exchange of fire between two groups in which five people, including a senior law enforcement officer, were injured. One of the injured later succumbed to his injuries.

An indefinite curfew has been imposed in some parts of Meethagar and Kharagar police stations with immediate effect.

Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has expressed profound regret about this incident and said that it is highly regrettable that the two groups resorted to firing at each other on the birth anniversary of the holy Prophet Muhammad, may the blessing and mercy of God be upon him, the benefactor of humankind and messenger

of peace and harmony. He has directed the authorities concerned to spare no effort in arresting the culprits.

Opposition Leader To Announce Merger With PPP

BK1610141489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khan, the leader of the National People's Party [and former governor and chief minister of Punjab Province during Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's rule], has decided to support the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and has expressed full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He announced his decision at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khan said that he will convene a party convention in Lahore in a few days to announce the merger of his party with the PPP.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Addresses All-Party Conference

BK1310125389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] President Premadasa says that grievances which have accumulated for a long time have become the root cause of the present discontent and unrest. He added that the country is seized with the problem of a great magnitude which cannot be solved by one party alone. It is a problem which all political parties have to get together to find a solution in view of its complexity. The president pointed out that the participants to the discussions under the All-Party Conference [APC] made a very good analysis of several factors with regard to the main cause of the present crisis. He noted that it is essential to have forums of this nature for dialogue and discussion. President Premadasa made these observations in his introductory speech at the All-Party Conference yesterday.

Addressing representatives, political parties, and groups, the president said that at the consultative meeting they identified areas and (?proposals) where all could agree upon without compromising with principles and policies. The president observed that the United Nations has a charter which embodies several noble principles. Among them are harmonious assembly, peaceful consultation, and negotiated compromise. The president said these are in fact the seven noble principles that would prevent deterioration and decline, and are contained in the Buddha dhamma [religion]. He said in this context we will find it quite easy to appreciate the principles which form the basis for the All-Party Conference.

The All-Party Conference was reconvened at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] yesterday. President Premadasa, who chaired the meeting presented his 10-page report and he said there was consensus among the participants at the All-Party Conference to restore peace and normalcy, prevent violence, and bring those outside the democratic process into the mainstream of politics.

The president announced that it was proposed to appoint a commission to enquire into the causes of unrest among youths. This commission will report with special reference to employment opportunities, education, and other related matters. He said that the leader of the opposition, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, has made such a proposal.

In his statement, the president denied that his peace intiative was an attempt to buy time or to tide over the negotiations the government was having with foreign donors. He said that the All-Party Conference had no relevance to these matters. In fact, they are being (?disowned) in negotiations between these international institutions and the government.

Mr Premadasa said there had been no response to the government's peace initiative from the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] which had rejected invitations to the All-Party Conference. He added that the government is making an offer to lift the emergency and take other related action if there is a renunciation of violence and a pledge of commitment to peace by those engaged in such violence.

The president noted that the All-Party Conference is clearly not a panacea for all our ills. It is not a perfect mechanism, but it is a vital forum where the nation can seek to replace conflict with compromise. The government is now prepared to take measures as suggested at the All-Party Conference. These are to lift the emergency, suspend the Prevention of Terrorism Act, grant an amnesty to all persons punished, release all persons detained, stop action against all persons wanted under the emergency regulations or the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and redress any legitimate grievances they may have. These measures, the president said, will be implemented if all parties including the JVP pledge their commitment to peace and democracy, renounce and desist from violence and sabotage with immediate effect.

Mr Premadasa noted that only a few parties and groups have submitted proposals covering all vital issues to restore peace in the country. Informal consultations have shown that it would be necessary to give more time. He said it would be appreciated if these proposals could reach him by the 31st of this month. Informal consultations have revealed that a representative committee of all parties should be constituted to study these issues and make recommendations. He said that he proposed to reconvene the All-Party Conference once the report of this committee is ready.

Mr Premadasa said that the fundamental rights of all who live in our country must be promoted and protected. No section of our community must have the perception that they are alienated or marginalized on grounds of political ideology, race, religion, class or sex. All (?have agreed) that this has to be so in a pluralistic, multi-ethnic, multireligious, and multilingual society such as ours. Several proposals were submitted by Dr (Rajiva Wijesinghe) of the Liberal Party, A. Aziz of the

DWC [Democratic Worker's Congress], S.D. Bandaranaike of the Sri Lanka Progressive Front, and J.G. Ponnambalam and K.A.C. Kandasamy of the Sri Lanka Tamil Congress.

At the APC with the president were Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, Acting Speaker Gamini Fonseka, and ministers A.C.S. Hameed, Ranil Wickremasinghe, and Vincent Perera. This conference was attended by 85 representatives from 22 political parties and groups.

Security Forces Arrest 40 'Subversives' 12 Oct

BK1310141989 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Forty subversives were apprehended by the security forces during their search operations yesterday. Twenty-six subversives were taken into custody in Kegalle and Anuradhapura Districts alone. In the Galle District, antisocial elements set fire to the subpost offices at Imaduwa, (Imagode), (Purathagode), Pitigala, and (Asanthe). The Kodagoda agrarian service center, a tractor belonging to the center, and the Bank of Ceylon branch at Kodagoda was also set on fire. At Dediyagala, in Akuressa security forces raided a subversive hideout and arrested one person. Five hundred grams of explosives and 1,770 feet of wire were also recovered. At (Manipulaval), in Kurunegala District two persons gave themselves up to the police.

A curfew will be imposed at midnight today and will be lifted at 0400 tomorrow.

'Senior Government Officials' Killed 12 Oct

BK1310160289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two senior government officials and two policemen were among the 20 persons killed in separate incidents of violence in the Sinhala majority's central and southern parts of the island since yesterday. According to official sources, the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] also burnt over 60 state buildings.

LANKAPUVATH Reports Violent Incidents

BK1410092389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0828 GMT 14 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 14 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Five militants were killed by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, while in the south, five subversives, a woman police reservist, and two bank employees were among those reported killed yesterday. Subversives set fire to a rubber factory and a number of sub-post offices in the provinces.

One hundred and seventy five suspected subversives were arrested by the security forces during the last 24 hours.

In the Colombo District, in the Western Province, three unidentified persons robbed a SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] bus belonging to the Mattakuliya depot. Security forces conducting search operation took in for questioning seven subversive suspects at Kirilapone, states a government communique issued today.

In the Gampaha District, also in the Western Province, the Wedamulla grama sevaka [rural administrative official] office was set on fire by subversives. Unknown persons abducted Ajith Hemantha Chandrasiri, a student of the Colombo University. Two unidentified gunmen took away Mrs Manel Jayaweera, a reserve woman police constable of Nittambuwa police and shot her dead. At Koholwila, a police party fired at a group of subversives killing five.

In the Sabaragamuwa Province, in the Kegalle District, the Sunny Croft Estate rubber factory was set on fire by subversives. At Hathangoda, unidentified gunmen took away three persons from their residence and shot them dead. The victims were K.R. Premaratne, B.R. Amarakoon and Sena Basnayake.

In the Ratnapura District, during a cordon and search operation, the security forces recovered from a subversive hideout Galkattas [locally-made pistols], muzzle loading guns, swords, and explosives. Subversives set fire to the documents of the Mulendiyawa grama sevaka office.

In the Southern Province, subversives set fire to the documents of the Baddewewa grama sevaka office. The Uda Beragama community centre office was set on fire by subversives. The documents of the Uhapithigoda grams sevaka office was set on fire by subversives.

In the Uva Province, in the Badulla District, six sub-post offices at Lenegama, Makulella, Amgallegama, Heel Oya, Rambukpotha, and Kehllawela were set on fire by subversives.

In the Moneragala District, further details of the attack on the Badalkumbura police station: Two police constables and a homeguard were a killed. One soldier and two constables were injured. Two subversives were also killed. Police constables, Dharmadasa and Karunadasa, homeguard Subasinghe and two subversives there killed. Lance Corporal Wijenayake and Constables Gunadasa and Gunaratne were injured. Ten self-loading rifles, five shotguns, Motorola radio set, one walkie talkie set, 340 rounds of SLR [Self Loading Rifle] ammunition, hand grenades and sets of police uniforms were robbed. During follow up operations, security forces had recovered a Claymore mine.

In the Central Province, in the Kandy District, two lorries, one tractor and tea boxes belonging to the Sopawatte Estate was set on fire by subversives. The

documents of three sub-post offices at Anandagamam, Mewala and Kamburadeniya were set on fire by subversives. At Manikhinna, security forces recovered from a subversive hideout, a roneo machine, machine, bench VI, batteries, detonators, explosives and detonator cords. [sentence as received]

In the Nuwara Eliya District, 68 suspected subversives were taken in for questioning by the security forces. Subversives set fire to the Anagamuwa sub-post office.

In the North Western Province, in the Kurunegala District, at Wellawa, two persons were shot dead by unidentified gunmen, one an assistant manager of the Bank of Ceylon. An employee of the Bank of Ceylon was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at Katuneriya, at Puttalam.

In the Northern Province, in Jaffna, during an exchange of fire between IPKF and militants, three IPKF soldiers were injured and five militants killed.

40 Burnt Bodies Found in New Wave of Violence

BK1410103589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1010 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (AFP)—Sri Lanka counted 57 more dead Saturday, 40 just outside Colombo, ahead of a humanitarian visit by International Red Cross officials to the strife-torn island, officials and witnesses said.

Officials said 40 unidentified burnt bodies had been found at three places near Kelaniya, a few kilometres (miles) north of here, on Friday and Saturday. Witnesses said 12 bodies were found burning near the famous Buddhist temple of Kelaniya Rajamahaviharaya early on Saturday. Buddhists say Gautama Buddha, the religion's founder, visited the shrine.

Residents said 20 bodies had been piled on the roadside at nearby Wanawasala Friday and burnt with tyres, while eight more burnt bodies were found at Bopitiya in the same area. Officials did not know the identity of the victims or their killers, but the dead were believed to be members of the rebel Janata Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) or their supporters killed by vigilante groups.

The killings came a day after suspected rebels abducted a woman reserve constable from her house in Gampaha District, and shot her dead. But officials could not say whether the slayings were in reprisal for the woman constable's death.

A four-member delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is to arrive here Monday at the invitation of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who asked the ICRC to bring humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka.

Human rights organisations have welcomed the invitation and said the ICRC would be useful in tracing missing persons and "humanising" the conflict, which has left more than 4,000 dead in the last two years.

A government statement Saturday said a police party fired at a group of "subversives," the official term for JVP rebels, at Koholwila in Gampaha District Friday, killing five. It said six others including two employees of state-owned banks were killed on the same day by unidentified gunmen in seperate incidents across the island. The security forces have arrested 175 suspected subversives in cordon and search operations during the past 24 hours, the statement added.

It said five Tamil seperatist guerrillas were killed and three Indian soldiers wounded in an exchange of fire in the northern Jaffna Peninsula over the same period.

The guerrillas of the leading Tamil seperatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have been waging a bloody bush war against Indian troops deployed in the Tamil-populated north and east under a July 1987 peace agreement between India and Sri Lanka. The LTTE repudiated the pact, which sought to end Tamil seperatism in the island.

'Militants' Torch 'Major' Electrical Facility

BK1510081489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 15 (AFP)—Suspected anti-government militants torched a major electricity facility here as continuing political violence left at least 13 people dead, officials said Sunday [15 October].

Activists believed to be from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) destroyed the Ceylon Electricity Board's stores complex in Colombo's Pamankada area overnight, officials said. They said the damage to the building and the loss of equipment was initially estimated at 10 million rupees (250,000 U.S. dollars).

In violence elsewhere, officials said "subversives," their term for the radical Sinhalese JVP, killed a woman police constable, a Buddhist monk and six civilians in separate incidents, officials said. Security forces shot dead three rebels in two encounters, a government statement said. It said an unknown gang fired at an Army truck in northern Vavuniya District, killing one soldier and wounding another.

The government statement said 132 suspected subversives were captured by security forces in the past 24 hours while 29 more gave themselves up to the military.

In the island's northernmost Jaffna Peninsula, an Indian Army officer was shot dead by activists of the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the government statement said. The shooting in Jaffna came as some 4,000 to 5,000 Indian troops prepared to leave the eastern Ampara Region and board ships for home, officials said. [passage omitted]